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# BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

## Gays shut out of 9/11 funds

by Matthew S. Bajko

**A** day before they joined other Americans to mark the six-month anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, the survivors of gay and lesbian victims learned they may not be covered under a special compensation fund Congress established for victims' families.

On the Sunday, March 10 edition of *Meet The Press*, the special master of the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund explained that people who were engaged to be married, fiancées, or gay domestic partners may not be eligible to apply for the federal fund.

When host Tim Russert said new guidelines for the fund exclude same-sex domestic partners, special master Kenneth Feinberg replied, "No, no — they're left out of my program to the extent that their own state doesn't include them. I cannot get into a position in this program, which has a one-and-a-half or two-year life [and] start second-guessing what the state of New York or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the state of Virginia or New Jersey, how they treat same-sex partners, domestic live-ins, etc."

Feinberg added, "What does your state law say about who is eligible? If your state law makes you eligible, I will honor state law. If it doesn't, I go with the state. Otherwise ... I would find myself getting sued in every state by people claiming that I'm not following how the state distributes money. I can't get into that local battle. I've got to rely on state law."

The short answer is that only those individuals residing in New York state are eligible. For the purpose of state benefits, New York is the only state to extend help to the same-sex partners of victims of September 11.

"Out of a desire to rely on state law, the federal master has avoided making specific statements about state law because there is so much variety in state law. So we are likely to see significant divergence in the treatment of claims depending on where people live," Jennifer Pizer of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund told the *Chicago Tribune*.

Of the two dozen gays and lesbians who lost partners in the attacks, those living in states other than New York may find their only recourse is to sue for compensation. And that could mean years before they see any money, which hinges on if their lawsuits are successful.

That is something Keith Bradkowsky, whose longtime partner, Jeffrey Collman, was a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11, had not counted on doing. When the compensation fund was announced, he said he hoped to apply.

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## Bound for Windy City

Peter Jackson, sponsored by Stompers Boots, was named Mr. San Francisco Leather 2002 at the competition at Club Townsend last Friday, March 8. Jackson advances to compete at International Mr. Leather 2002 in Chicago over Memorial Day weekend. For all the details about last week's contest, see Mister Marcus's Leather column on page 38.

## Muscle mag apologizes for homophobic comments

by Matthew S. Bajko

**M**ale and female models sporting bodies to die for adorn the covers of *Muscle Media*, a magazine geared at men and women looking to slim down and shape up.

Inside, photos of guys' perfect physiques, sans the women, illustrate the magazine.

No one seemed to mind the homoerotic aspects of it all.

At least not until the magazine tweaked its layout a bit.

Last year the magazine, based in Golden, Colorado, published several editions where the women disappeared off the cover, prompting homophobic remarks from readers who questioned the thinking of the magazine's editor.

"Is this *Playgirl*? Where's the women?" reader Kevin S. asked the magazine via e-mail.

Apparently, some straight readers couldn't handle looking at the scantily clad men with their rippling biceps and six-pack abs without

a woman accompanying them on the cover. "The lone guy on the cover does not look right on a straight guy's coffee table," complained reader Mark Lenoe.

When the editors left the girl off the cover of both the November and December 2001 editions, some men cried out that their heterosexuality was being compromised.

"I feel like your December 2001 issue should be titled 'Homo World.' Where are you getting your models from? That Guerrilla Cardio guy running in cut-off jeans with those chopper sideburns looks as gay as a three dollar bill," wrote reader John Langley.

The magazine published the comments in the March 2002 issue. And added this dumbbell of a response.

"We hear ya, bro ... We missed the women as well. So we brought them back," *Muscle Media* editor David Kennedy told his readers.

What the editor also seemed to miss was how



Supervisor Mark Leno, right, with his parents, Manny, left, and Esther, on election night.

Rick Gerharter

## Leno wins Assembly primary

by Cynthia Laird

**S**an Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno's initial narrow lead in the Democratic primary for the 13th Assembly District seat has grown significantly with the counting of absentee ballots since the March 5 election, prompting Leno's closest rival, former Supervisor Harry Britt, to concede the contest last Friday, March 8.

Leno was ecstatic with his victory.

"The strength of our campaign proved to be the diversity of those who supported us," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Tuesday, March 12.

According to Leno's campaign, he won in the Castro, the Bayview-Hunters Point, and Chinatown, to name just a few areas in the district.

On election night, Leno's margin of victory was just 701 votes after some absentees and the precinct returns were tallied. Since then, thousands of absentee ballots have been counted by the Department of Elections, and Leno's lead has widened. As of Tuesday, March 12, Leno had 21,982 votes

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

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## Beer benefit for Tessie's



## PAWS benefit next Fri.

by Katie Szymanski

A Zen garden, a circus tent, and a live-work loft are just a few of the one-of-a-kind animal habitats that have made San Francisco's annual "Petchitecture" event a roaring success. A benefit for Pets Are Wonderful Support, the organization that provides pet care services to people with debilitating illnesses, this year's showcase and auction will take place on Friday, March 22 at the One Market Atrium and Conference from 7-10 p.m.

Attendees (and their licensed, vaccinated dogs, if desired) will have the chance to bid on the creations of local architects and de-

signers, who will present their doghouses, beds, litterboxes, and bowls to the public to raise money for people (and their pets) in need. Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and doggy care will be provided, and entertainment includes Zoli's Little Thing and the hysterically infamous tribute band Tom Jonesing. The evening is completed by special guest speaker Dr. Marty Becker, author of the book, *The Healing Power of Pets*.

Admission to Petchitecture is \$45 per person, which will help PAWS reach its goal of raising \$125,000. Money raised will specifically be used to further the PAWS expansion programs to assist more clients; increase outreach and education to medical,

veterinary, and social service providers regarding the special circumstances and needs for persons with AIDS who have companion animals; and produce an educational conference in 2004. Sponsorship opportunities for the evening are available, and interested guardians can become "Pet Parents" by commissioning a habitat for their furry or scaly loved ones.

Next Friday's event is accessible through the Mission Street entrance of One Market Street, and public parking is available at 75 Howard Street, between Spear and Steuart. For more information on Petchitecture, call PAWS at (415) 241-1469, or event planners Poulos Brothers at (415) 677-8690. ▼

## LGBT smoking cessation classes start soon

by Katie Szymanski

B lame the bar culture, the stress of coming out, or the way that cigarettes are marketed to the LGBT community. Whatever the cause, rates of smoking among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adolescents and adults appear to be higher than rates for the general population, according to studies cited by the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Despite the fact that smoking rates negatively impact or complicate LGBT health issues – from hormone therapy for transgender people to immunity issues for people with HIV/AIDS – tobacco

companies continue to target these communities, and there is little research on smoking cessation among LGBT persons. One study, however, found that at select queer youth events, 20 percent of the queer youth in attendance were smokers.

A special smoking cessation class specifically for LGBT youth, 23 and under, will be offered beginning next Thursday, March 21. Funded by the American Lung Association of San Francisco and San Mateo counties and the Tobacco Free Project of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, the smoking cessation classes will run from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Charles M.

Holmes Campus of the LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market Street for a total of nine weeks. Participants who complete the class will receive \$200.

If you or someone you know is young and hooked on tobacco, now is the time to stop, as research indicates that old habits are the hardest to break. To register for the class, contact Joe or Catherine at (415) 703-6150, ext. 13, or e-mail: smokefreeLGBT@yahoo.com.

Adults interested in smoking cessation should check out information on the queer and HIV-positive class at www.lastdrag.org; adult classes are now enrolling for April. ▼

## Mission-Castro photo contest deadline nears

by Katie Szymanski

A ctivists, advocates, and artists have until Monday, March 25 to pick up their cameras or submit their work to the first-ever "Underexposed," a photography contest sponsored by Dolores Street Community Services and Galeria de la Raza.

Underexposed is soliciting work that captures the culture and diversity of the Mission-Castro neighborhoods, with particular emphasis on the homeless and other underserved populations. Three winners in the categories of professional, amateur, and DSCS client will be announced at DSCS's 20th anniversary celebration in April, and the winning photographs will be displayed at Galeria de la Raza in September. The contest seeks to uncover "rad-

ical respect and cooperation in our neighborhoods," according to organizers.

Everyone is encouraged to enter the contest, and submissions should be in the form of eight or less photos, slides, or copies. Submissions should be clearly labeled with the photographer's name and image number as listed on the required entry form (available online), and images should be submitted in clear plastic sheets with their top edges labeled as such. An artist's statement of no more than 250 words should be included, and professionals should include their resumes. Work will only be returned with the enclosure of a self-addressed stamped envelope. All entries must be received by 5 p.m. on March 25.

DSCS provides culturally appropriate services to the community, including the only neighbor-

hood-based emergency shelter for working homeless Latinos, and the Richard M. Cohen Residence, the only 24-hour licensed and non-institutional AIDS residence in San Francisco. Galeria de la Raza is a nonprofit arts organization focused on promoting Chicano and Latino art and the cultures from which it arises. For more information on the contest, visit www.dscs.org, or drop by the offices at 938 Valencia Street. ▼

### Clarification

In the March 7 article, "Israeli gay group turns to America for help," the Web site information, [www.aguda.info](http://www.aguda.info), should have noted that the site will be up soon and is currently not available.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

# Mitulski heads LGBT senior housing project

by Katie Szymanski

**S**ome might say it's a match made in heaven. Jim Mitulski, former pastor of Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, has become the first executive director for Rainbow Adult Community Housing, which since 1998 had been an all-volunteer network of community advocates moving forward the dream of a nonprofit LGBT retirement facility in San Francisco.

For RACH, the hiring of Mitulski means LGBT seniors now have the benefit of a seasoned organizer whose work has helped people of all generations. For Mitulski, his new position brings together his own passions: working on housing issues, and helping to address the needs of the community.

"It puts my experiences to good use," said Mitulski, whose relevant background includes his efforts with the Castro's queer youth shelter, working with and ministering to elders, and providing guidance to the first generation of people with AIDS, many of whom are now entering their retirement years. After 15 years at MCC, he spent the past year working as the program and outreach coordinator for the San Francisco Public Library's James Hormel Center. He also serves as co-chair of the city's HIV Health Services Planning Council.

Mitulski, 43, said that RACH will identify and address the unique needs of a multi-generational population defined by a large age range of all LGBT people over the age of 60. On the job since February 1, his immediate focus is to fulfill RACH's goal of finding a site, probably in Hayes



Jim Mitulski

"We didn't know how to envision or plan for the future then," he said, noting that as AIDS has changed, and the baby boomers gray, the need for such a project has become more apparent. "This is the time for our community to be truly intergenerational. We've come a long way in addressing the needs of our youth. The same effort must now be extended to include our elders."

Now that the community center has opened, said Mitulski, many advocates will have the time to put their energies toward a senior living center. Additionally, he pointed out, recent surveys have shown two important facts about elders and subsidized housing: 20 percent of San Francisco's senior citizens are identified as LGBT, and a majority (60 percent) of all retiring residents qualify for subsidized services. When LGBT people cannot afford to stay in San Francisco after retirement, often they must face one of few unsatisfying options. Returning to a homophobic or isolated family situation is one. Living in a heterosexually-centric facility is another.

"The timing feels right," said Mitulski, who underscored that those closest to the project agree that taking care of the community's elders is in everyone's best interest.

"It's really clear to me that this is not some paternalistic effort," said Mitulski. "We need the seniors as much as they may need us. They are our history makers. They've seen things only they can describe. They know things we cannot possibly imagine." ▶

For more information, visit [www.sfrach.org](http://www.sfrach.org).

## Get free help on your taxes

by Cynthia Laird

**S**an Francisco Treasurer Susan Leal this week alerted low-income Bay Area taxpayers to the free tax services offered by Tax-Aid, a nonprofit organization that helps taxpayers with household incomes under \$32,000 prepare their federal and state tax returns free of charge. Now in its 15th year, Tax-Aid has generated \$5 million in tax refunds to more than 7,200 low-income Bay Area taxpayers.

Tax-Aid sessions will be taking place this Saturday, March 16 at several locations throughout the

Bay Area; sessions also will be offered in coming weeks, Leal noted.

"With just over four weeks to go until the tax filing deadline, low-wage working families should know about this important service," Leal said.

The accounting firm Arthur Andersen, now embroiled in the Enron scandal, is one of the accounting services helping to provide the free service. Leal did not defend the auditing company regarding the Enron debacle, but she noted that local employees of the firm have been participating in Tax-Aid for years.

"They've been doing it for 15 years," Leal told the Bay Area Re-

porter. "There are also other accounting firms involved. If they [Andersen] want to do something beneficial, I think it's something low-income families could take advantage of."

Tax-Aid, in alliance with Andersen, has nearly 350 Bay Area volunteers, many of whom are accountants and tax professionals, donating their time during the tax season to assist those in need.

Volunteers at sites in San Francisco, Oakland, Marin, and on the Peninsula assist individuals and families in obtaining hundreds of thousands of dollars in refunds each year through the earned income

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# Queers elected to SF political committees

by Katie Szymanski

**T**he March 5 primary election made history in San Francisco, not just by the likelihood of sending the first gay man to the California state Assembly (Supervisor Mark Leno), but by electing the city's first transgender person to office, along with a slew of progressive queers to the Democratic County Central Committee.

Activist Robert Haaland, a transgender man, was elected to San Francisco's Democratic County Central Committee with more than 10,000 votes, according to unofficial returns released Monday, March 11 by the Department of Elections. Haaland, who works full time for the Housing Rights Committee, is also active in transgender advocacy and was, until recently, the campaign manager for Harry Britt's Assembly race (Britt, also a gay man, lost to Leno in a close race, according to



Photo: Philomena Celard

Robert Haaland

unofficial returns).

Other queers elected to the DCCC include AIDS activist Jeff Sheehy, Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club President Debra Walker, legislative aide Bill Barnes, lesbian politico Holli Thier (who lost her bid for the 13th District Assembly seat), gay and labor ac-

tivist Criss Romero, and former Supervisor Leslie Katz, all in the 13th District. Also elected to the 13th District seats were Wade Crowfoot, Richard Ow, Tracy Baxter, and former Supervisor Sue Bierman. Top vote getters were Bierman (more than 17,000), Crowfoot (more than 15,000), Katz (more than 15,000), and Walker (more than 14,000).

Additionally, the 12 District welcomed at least one queer representative to the DCCC with the election of Connie O'Connor. And the Green Party's County Council saw the election of queer youth activist Seth Watkins.

At least one gay, G. Michael German, was also re-elected to the Republican County Central Committee in the 13th District. Longtime gay Republican Chris Bowman, however, was narrowly losing his re-election bid at press time by a mere three votes.

"With this historic election, the

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## Exhibit recalls 'Butterflies and Oranges'

by Joe Dignan

**I**f Stonewall was our Declaration of Independence, wrote the curators of a new exhibit at the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California, then 1977 was our Constitution.

The 25th anniversary exhibit, titled "Butterflies and Oranges," opens Friday, March 15 at two sites, and chronicles the events of that tumultuous year through photographs, posters, artifacts, and other items, including T-shirts, buttons, and a stack of index cards recording attacks on gays and lesbians in the Castro.

In 1977, Anita Bryant, with her "Save Our Children" campaign to repeal Miami's new anti-discrimination ordinance, gave the burgeoning gay community a lightning rod, as she inadvertently made herself an icon of bigotry and prejudice.

In 1977 Armistead Maupin's new serial novel, *Tales of the City*, was running in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and his protagonist, Michael "Mouse" Tolliver, wrote his now-legendary coming-out letter to his Florida parents. "I know

this may be hard for you to believe," he wrote, "but San Francisco is full of men and women, both straight and gay, who don't consider sexuality in measuring the worth of another human being."

In San Francisco, Harvey Milk was elected as California's first openly gay elected official and a "Butterfly Brigade" of gays patrolled the Castro carrying whistles to thwart street attacks.

Bryant's campaign to repeal Miami's new anti-discrimination ordinance provoked 6,000 people to march, for the first time, from Castro to City Hall. The June 7, 1977 event was dubbed "Orange Tuesday," because of the Florida orange juice boycott prompted by Bryant's campaign.

On June 22, 1977, Robert Hillsborough, a gay city gardener, was murdered in the Mission by four youths screaming "Faggot, faggot, faggot!" A few days later, on June 26, San Francisco's Freedom Day Parade drew over 125,000 participants, 10 times the previous year's attendance. The Butterfly Brigade members carried giant multi-colored butterfly nets, which are on view as part of the

exhibit, and the first rainbow flag, designed by Gilbert Baker.

"People were just pissed off," said Paul Gabriel exhibits director for the GLHS.

And so, from these beginnings, sprang a national gay rights movement. As one parade participant scrawled on a poster for the event, "Dear Anita, Having a gay time. Wish you were here."

The GLHS will host an opening reception for the exhibit at its headquarters at 973 Market Street, Friday, March 15 from 5-7 p.m. The exhibit will continue through May 15 at both the historical society, Tuesday-Saturday 1-5 p.m., and at the Hormel Center on the third floor of the San Francisco Main Library, Larkin and Grove streets, during regular library hours.

On March 21 from 6-8 p.m., Cleve Jones, creator of the AIDS quilt and a former Butterfly Brigade member, will participate in a panel discussion along with other brigade members in the Latino-Hispanic Room of the Main Library.

All events are free. More information is available at [www.glhs.org](http://www.glhs.org) or by calling (415) 777-5455. ▼

## Gay-owned store celebrates 33 years

by Cynthia Laird

**O**ver in San Francisco's Potrero Hill neighborhood sits Dandelion, a something-for-everyone store that this weekend, celebrates 33 years – or one-third of a century – in business. Owned by gay men Steve Fletcher, Del Rimbe, and Carl Croft, the store has seen a few locations over the years, but the commitment to quality and a wide variety of items has remained unchanged.

"We're an eclectic, unique store," manager Roberta Goodman told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Fletcher, Rimbe, and Croft actually operate two businesses out of the store located at 55 Potrero Avenue. Dandelion is the retail business, while Tamopo (dande-

lion in Japanese) is the wholesale division.

Fletcher said that this Saturday, March 16, customers and well-wishers are welcome to stop by between noon and 6 p.m. for some champagne and finger foods. The goodies will also be served Tuesday through Saturday, March 19-23, from 3-6 p.m.

"We had actually planned to celebrate our 33 and one-third milestone by putting together a series of in-store events," Fletcher said in a letter to the *B.A.R.* "After calculating the costs of printing and mailing to our customer list to be in excess of \$10,000, the three of us decided we would feel better simply giving that amount of money to local charities. There are so many struggling to survive at this point in time we simply felt that this was a better use of the

funds."

Goodman said Dandelion offers an array of household furnishings, books, table and desk top items, bath items, and children's items and that items are priced for just about any budget.

Fletcher noted that Dandelion first opened its doors on Sacramento Street in 1968. Ten years later, prompted by the redevelopment of the block, Dandelion moved to California Street, where it remained for 15 years. After that, the men moved the store to its current location, where they were able to combine the retail and wholesale operations.

"This is the time of the Spring Equinox and of course the Easter season, so we hope that many of our friends will be coming to Dandelion to help us celebrate together," Fletcher said. ▼

# Knoller trial winds down

by Ed Walsh

**A**s the dog-mauling trial winds down, an attorney for Sharon Smith, the partner of the victim, Diane Whipple, is blasting a continued defense strategy to attack Smith's credibility.

On Monday, March 11, Bruce Hotchkiss, the attorney for defendant Robert Noel, called a San Francisco police sergeant to the stand. The sergeant testified that the law requires anyone with knowledge of a dog bite to report the bite to the health department. By his question, Hotchkiss was apparently suggesting that Smith should have reported an earlier incident in which Whipple was allegedly bitten on the hand by one of Noel's two Presa Canario dogs.

In response to the defense strategy, Smith's lawyer, Michael Cardoza, angrily told the *Bay Area Reporter*: "Did you know about that law? Who the hell knows about that law? Why would Sharon have heard about that law? That makes no sense, it will be argued away to a jury in about two-and-a-half seconds, that's what a valueless argument it is."

Cardoza was much more exercised about comments made on a Fox News program by Nedra Ruiz, the attorney for Noel's wife, Marjorie Knoller. Ruiz accused Smith of lying on the stand when she testified that Whipple was terrified of the dogs after being bitten by one weeks before the fatal January 26, 2001 attack.

Cardoza filed a complaint with Judge James Warren. Cardoza said that Ruiz was prohibited from commenting on the veracity of witnesses because of the judge's gag order. Warren said he would take up the matter during a hearing in May. At that same hearing, the judge will also consider possible contempt charges against San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan for accusing Knoller of lying. Hallinan made his remarks to reporters after one of the pretrial hearings.

Cardoza also dismissed Ruiz's questioning of Smith's credibility with regard to her statements about an earlier run-in Whipple had with the dogs that resulted in a minor bite to her hand. Smith first said Whipple had red marks on her hand from the bite, but later called the marks "puncture marks."

"It's absolutely ridiculous," Cardoza told the *B.A.R.* "She described it as best she could for a lay person. It's no different than you and I talking. If we were injured we would describe our injuries differently every time we described it. So I'm not worried about and I think that's common sense and Nedra is grasping at straws, she's suicide lawyering, as someone said."

The trial began three weeks ago and is proceeding faster than anyone anticipated. It is expected to go to the jury early next week. Although Noel had been expected to testify, his attorney rested his case Monday without calling him to the stand.

Noel and Knoller are being charged with involuntary manslaughter. Knoller, who was with the dogs during the hallway attack on Whipple, her neighbor, is also being charged with second-degree murder. The attorney couple is also being charged with keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being.

Knoller's much-anticipated testimony got underway after Hotchkiss rested his case on Monday. Knoller began by tearfully apologizing for the attack.

"I'm feeling awful just thinking about the horrible way Ms. Whipple died in that hallway," she said in response to Ruiz asking her how she was.

In describing the mauling, Knoller said she struggled with Bane, the male dog that instigated the attack, for 10 to 20 minutes to save Whipple's life.

"I couldn't stop him from doing what he was doing," she said.

When lead prosecutor Jim Hammer was asked by reporters outside court about Knoller's tears on the stand, he answered: "She appeared to cry a little bit, for what I saw was less than a minute. ... The jury will have to decide if she is crying for herself or Diane Whipple."

Hammer also questioned why Knoller never asked about Whipple's condition in the hour after the attack.

Smith had an angry and brief response outside court: "After watching Marjorie's performance

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## We died too, dammit

We are angry. The day before the country — including gay and lesbian citizens — marked the six-month anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Kenneth Feinberg, the special master heading up the distribution of millions of dollars in federal aid for survivors of the victims, went on national television and stated that while fetuses, babies and illegal immigrants would receive financial compensation, gay and lesbian surviving partners would not. This is discrimination at its lowest. Gays and lesbians died in the attacks, along with thousands of other Americans. According to Feinberg, he must abide by state laws, and, since no state recognizes same-sex marriage, gay and lesbian couples cannot be treated as legal spouses. All recognized spouses, of course, will be getting federal relief.

In New York, thankfully, the picture doesn't look as bleak. Month ago, Governor George Pataki issued an executive order granting surviving partners of gay victims equal status as spouses under the state's Crime Victims Board; but for those surviving partners who reside in another state, it appears as though they will have to go through the lengthy, costly, and uncertain process of suing the airlines, waiving their rights to federal compensation in what likely will be a fruitless attempt to recover funds.

That is not fair. The Bush administration issued a directive so that illegal immigrants would be covered by the compensation, and somehow Feinberg and administration officials determined that fetuses are entitled to compensation. But gays and lesbians? The message Feinberg delivered last Sunday on NBC's *Meet the Press* was clear: forget it.

This is not to say we're against everyone receiving the federal compensation. Thousands of people died six months ago and the survivors should be awarded the monies. A person's legal status should have no bearing on qualifying for financial aid. Many of the workers who died in the World Trade Center were minimum-wage immigrant employees and their families were left with nothing when they died.

But neither should a person's sexual orientation have any bearing on whether he or she receives compensation. Feinberg's message last Sunday clearly indicated that sexual orientation does make a difference. If the administration wanted, it could have easily issued a directive covering same-sex surviving partners as it did for illegal immigrants. It did not.

That is wrong. We draw the line at administration policies that clearly discriminate against gays and lesbians and singles out surviving same-sex partners as second-

class citizens.

Some of those who died, such as Mark Bingham, are considered by many to be a hero. He was on United Flight 93 which crashed outside of Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and was likely one of several passengers who attempted to thwart the hijackers, causing the plane to miss its intended target. At Bingham's memorial last fall, Republican Senator John McCain called Bingham a hero. "It has been my fate to witness great courage and sacrifice for America's sake, but none greater than the selfless sacrifice of Mark Bingham and those good men who grasped the gravity of the moment, understood the threat, and decided to fight back at the cost of their lives," McCain, a former prisoner of war, said at the service.

*Fight back at the cost of their lives.* That's what one American — a gay American — did. And how does this country recognize that heroism? By decreeing that he is less of an American than everyone else who died that day.

Or what about David Charlebois? He was the co-pilot on American Airlines Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon. He leaves behind a partner of 14 years, Tom Hay. Jeffrey Collman was a flight attendant on American Airlines Flight 11, the first

plane to hit the World Trade Center. He leaves behind a longtime partner, Keith Bradkowski, who now must decide whether to file a lawsuit since he's not covered under the federal compensation guidelines.

And there are others. Sheila Hein died at the Pentagon and leaves behind a partner, Peggy Neff. Joe Ferguson worked for the National Geographic Society and died on Flight 77. He was traveling with students and teachers to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary off the Santa Barbara coast.

Over the last six months, President Bush and other administration officials have repeatedly talked about the strength of all Americans and how it is critical that all Americans come together in this time of national crisis. And indeed, all Americans — including gays and lesbians — have felt the pain of losing loved ones and anger at the terrorists whose actions claimed so many innocent lives on that clear September morning six months ago. Many in the LGBT community have supported the president, mirroring the national trend.

But it is clear to us that President Bush and his administration really mean all Americans *except* gays and lesbians. And that is a gross injustice.

We died too, dammit. ▼

## Editorial



## You need a will!

by Michael Adams

What are you waiting for? That was one of the questions I often asked myself in the wake of the September 11 attacks. My partner and I had been talking about doing wills for the last couple of years, but we had never quite gotten around to it. It was pretty ironic, given that even before September 11 my work repeatedly introduced me to people whose lives were turned upside down in tragic ways because they didn't have a will. People like Amalia Hervella and Margaret O'Neil, who were partners for nearly two decades but never did their wills. When Margaret died suddenly in July 2000, her cousins evicted Amalia from the home the couple had shared. Only after Lambda Legal stepped in to pressure Margaret's estate did Amalia get some help, but even then it was nothing like the support she would have received had she and Margaret had wills. Or people like Frank Vasquez, who shared a home and business with his partner for 27 years. When his partner died in 1995 without a will, everything was in jeopardy. Frank is still in the midst of emotionally wrenching litigation with his partner's blood relatives to save what the couple built together.

Still, it was learning that at least 20 of the lesbians and gay men killed on September 11 didn't have wills, and watching the additional nightmares that created for their part-

ners and friends, that finally motivated me to get my act together. If you haven't done a will yet, what will it take? Because if you die without a will, the law will disregard your chosen family and your wishes. All the work you've done to live your life according to what's right for you will be out the window.

I know it's not easy, having been there myself. We use all kinds of reasons to delay. We've heard many of them at Lambda Legal, and some of them came out of my own mouth. But none of them are good reasons to rob ourselves of the protections that come with a will.

"I'm waiting because I'm too young to think about it." But if September 11 taught us anything, it's don't put off for tomorrow what you can (and should) do today. You never know when tragedy is going to strike.

"I don't need a will because my boyfriend and I are domestic partners so we're protected." Wrong. Domestic partnerships and commitment ceremonies can't give you the legal protections you get from a will.

"I don't need a will because I don't have a lot of property or money." But if you have anything you care about, whether it's worth a lot of money or simply close to your heart, you — not the government or your relatives — should make the decision about what happens to it when you die.

"I don't need a will because I'm not in a relationship." Wills aren't just for people with partners. Who do you want to be in charge of your personal affairs, your funeral plans, and whatever you leave behind? You need a will to spell it out.

"I don't have a will because I can't afford a lawyer." This is a real concern for many people. A lawyer might charge a few hundred dollars or more for a will, but it could be one of the most worthwhile investments you ever make. Set aside or save the money to give yourself this protection. And though it's not as safe as getting a lawyer, sometimes it's possible to do simple wills on your own.

"My partner and I don't have wills because we can't agree what to do about money." But you don't need to decide everything once and for all to write a will. Identify what you are sure about and do a will that covers those issues; deal with the other things on an individual basis in your will.

As Lambda Legal fights to win legal protections for you, do your part by protecting yourself with a will.

To learn more about wills and other important legal documents you need, visit Lambda Legal's Web site at [www.lambdalegal.org](http://www.lambdalegal.org) or call Lambda Legal's help desk at (212) 809-8585. ▼

## Guest Opinion



## LETTERS

**'Elitist fags' oppose TGs**

Regarding Dale Carpenter's "The myth of a transgender Stonewall" [OutRight, March 7]: Wow, what a convincing argument! Yeah, you're so right, there "probably" weren't that many drag queens at Stonewall after all. They "probably" didn't actually start the riots. You weren't there, but "most likely" you and your sources are absolutely right about everything that went on there.

I'm guessing your commentary really has little to do with your commitment to historical accuracy, and more to do with promoting your transphobic agenda. Well, news flash – transphobia doesn't need to be promoted, since it's already quite rampant in this so-called community. Elitist fags such as yourself see transgendered people as clowns, an embarrassment, and a hindrance to "your" movement.

You state that "Gay civil rights legislation would be stalled or effectively killed ... if transgenders were included." Apparently some people are more worthy of civil rights than others. So in the interest of "progress," we should exclude those that we feel are less worthy, less important, less human. How is that progress? How do you expect the opposition to take this "civil rights" movement seriously when it turns its back on fellow queer people for its own selfish gains?

How far would the African American civil rights movement have gotten if it had only catered to the needs of upper-class rich black folk, excluding low-income blacks because they make the "respectable" ones look bad?

Like it or not, transpeople are a part of this movement, and we're here to stay. Excluding us (or trying to) only postpones the inevitable, hence stalling progress for all of us – gay, lesbian, bi, trans, and otherwise.

Cowen Conaghan  
San Francisco

**Keep the record gay**

Just to keep the record gay: the Stonewall riots were in June 1969, Gay Liberation Front began organizing demonstrations by July 1969, long before the Snake Pit raid in the spring of 1970. Dale Carpenter is mistaken about the order of events [The myth of a transgender Stonewall, OutRight, March 7].

Soon after arriving in New York in December 1969, I started attending the weekly Gay Liberation Front dances at Alternate-U. I also frequented the Snake Pit on Saturday nights.

I was too tired to go the Snake Pit the night it was raided because I spent most of the day in bed with a man I brought home from the GLF dance the night before. The horror of the Snake Pit raid politicized me and I got actively involved in the Gay Liberation Front.

I agree that Stonewall was not the beginning of gay liberation. It did, however, provide a rallying cry and a story powerful enough to build a transforming movement around it. The legend of Stonewall inspired many women and men to question the assumptions of the predominant culture.

Demonstrations, rallies, marches, consciousness-raising groups, annual Pride parades, street theater, dances, conferences, gay studies classes, books, plays, films, music, and the dedication of numerous individuals all contributed to a new awareness and sense of community unimaginable thirty years ago.

N. A. Diaman  
San Francisco.

[Dale Carpenter responds: Mr. Diaman is correct: GLF organizing preceded the Snake Pit raid. I regret the error. I stand by the underlying assertion, however, that Stonewall's significance has been exaggerated. I am interested to see that Mr. Diaman's own activism, and it seems the activism of many others, followed the raid at the Snake Pit (after which a person in police custody actually died) not Stonewall.]

**'Pink Brick' a bad idea**

I was pleased to see the Pride Committee ballot for grand marshals of the Pride Parade in the March 7 B.A.R. Why, though, would we have on the same ballot a competition for a "pink brick" for those who hate us? The homophobes listed would certainly find it an honor rather a dishonor to win the prize. Which one has the most hatred? Strange competition. Bad idea.

John-Michael Olexy  
San Francisco

**Torch has been passed**

It was a close election, but Mark Leno defeated Tom Ammiano, Harry Britt, Willie Brown, Carole Migden, and organized labor in a single day. This is indeed a monumental feat and it means that Mark Leno will be a very independent Assembly member. Leno won by gaining support from ordinary citizens throughout the district's neighborhoods.

The torch has now been passed to a new generation of San Francisco leaders with fresh ideas for solving problems and improving San Francisco and Cal-

ifornia. These new leaders include Mark Leno, Susan Leal, Gavin Newsom, Dennis Herrera, Sophie Maxwell, and Mabel Teng.

It is an exciting time in San Francisco and the opportunity exists to revitalize the city and return it to its glory days. Positive change will only be achieved through the commitment, intelligence, dignity, and enthusiasm that this new generation of leaders brings to the table. And positive change will require that all of us work with them to make San Francisco better than it has ever been.

We should collectively express our thanks to Harry Britt, Willie Brown, Carole Migden, and Doris Ward as their public service careers in San Francisco come to an end. They have all been great friends to the LGBT community during the past quarter century. Our community is large and diverse and each of us has probably disagreed with these leaders on some issues over the years. But when it comes to basic civil rights they have been there for us and deserve our respect and appreciation for their contributions.

Rich Kowalewski  
San Francisco

**Leno defeated machines**

Mark Leno succeeded in defeating the machines of both a mayor and a board president, to become the first openly gay man to serve in the California Assembly. His feat brings to mind Harvey Milk's victory over the machines of his day.

The only people boo-hooing because of this accomplishment are those who boast the most of being "progressive." See any problem with this picture?

Arthur Evans  
San Francisco

**Mailstrom****Racism is alive and well**

I just wanted to thank Paula Martinac for the column "Race matters – and not just in February" [Lesbian Notions, February 14]. I had a stack of unread B.A.R. newspapers and needed to line some shelves and that's how I came by the column. Being African American and gay or using the latest black term (same-gender loving), I was very impressed by your understanding of the issue of race and the need for meaningful dialogue by the gay committee at large. You hit upon some major themes that the white gay community cannot or will not look at. I admire your courage for laying it out there. Many of us African Americans living in San Francisco have been saying basically the same things for years, "When will our white gay brothers and sisters wake up?" I hope with the new LGBT center, we can come together to discuss and, most of all, begin to heal around this issue of race in our community. I'm not just talking about black and white racism but the racism that also exists between people of color that is seldom talked about. My personal feelings are that the LGBT communities at the turn of a new century could serve as a model to the rest of America of how to really live in a democratic and inclusive society. It is good to know that there are people like columnist Paula Martinac pushing the envelope around race in the gay community.

Robert (Kumara) Hill  
San Francisco

**A new day has arrived**

On my way to work Saturday night I took the F line down Market. At Church Street three straight couples 20 to 30 years old got on the car. They were well dressed and from out of town, obviously searching for a fun place to go. As we passed the gay community center they looked out at the two very brightly lit buildings. Through every window they saw men in suits and women in dresses and slacks. Every one seemed to be sipping champagne and happily moving up and down the stairs or from one room to another. People on the top veranda looked out on the clear warm night and seemed to be in friendly conversation.

It was easy to see on the faces of the six straight people that they really would like to check this party out. One man said to the others, "What's that place?" You could see his desire to get off the trolley and join the fun. They all started for the door and then one woman in the group said, "Oh that's the lesbian and gay center." They all stopped moving and the trolley carried us on down the street. All six of those straight people will have different ideas about gay people than the ones they had before they swept past our center. Now imagine the gay people, young and old, who will look up at all those brightly lit rooms. A new day has arrived.

Dan Smith  
San Francisco

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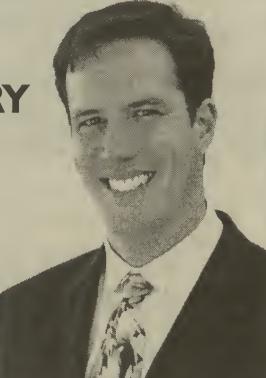


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# About the 'P' word

by Paula Martinac

If there's one word that makes lesbians and gay men nervous, it's "pedophilia." The charge of preying on young people has been leveled against us so often that we have ready responses when "gay" is mentioned in the same breath as "pedophile." Lesbians are often quick to defend their gay brothers with statistics that show straight men are more likely to be pedophiles than gay men. But at the same time, our community rarely discusses that lesbians' and gay men's diverging views on what constitutes pedophilia are a barrier to achieving community.

Over the last few decades, the lesbian and gay movement has worked hard to try to dispel the pedophile stereotype that hounds us and often costs us our rights. We've barred the North American Man-Boy Love Association from our community centers and pride parades, making it clear that we think advocating sex with children is reprehensible. And we've instituted a network of admirable social-service programs to help and protect queer-identified youth.

But at the same time, some gay men still maintain that an adult who has same-sex relations with someone under the legal age of consent is on some level doing the kid a favor by helping to bring him or her "out." It's not pedophilia, this thinking goes — pedophilia only refers to *little* kids. Instead, adult-youth sex is viewed as an important aspect of gay culture, with a history dating back to "Greek love" of ancient times.

This romanticized vision of adult-youth sexual relations has been a staple of gay literature and has made appearances, too, in gay-themed films. But it's a view that demonstrates little understanding of what pedophilia is — an abuse of adult power and an exploitation of the awakening sexual feelings of young people.

Gay men aren't alone in their ignorance about pedophilia. Society in general has a misguided way of seeing it as a kind of sexual preference or choice rather than as sexual abuse. After the recent revelations about the extent of child molestation by priests, a CNN poll

found that 55 percent of those questioned believed that priests wouldn't seek out children for sex if not for the vow of celibacy. But if that's true, how do we explain all those married men who prey on kids, including oftentimes their own?

Society's misunderstanding about sexual abuse manifests itself in the gay community, too. Once I was searching through the video collection of my local lesbian and gay lending library. There, right alongside *Desert Hearts*, *Parting Glances*, and other classic lesbian- and gay-themed movies, was *The Boys of St. Vincent* — a deeply disturbing film about the sexual abuse of young boys by Catholic brothers at a Canadian orphanage in the 1970s.

While the Canadian film itself never makes the mistake of equating pedophilia and abuse with either sexual orientation or preference, the volunteers at the gay library certainly did. And it's not uncommon to hear gay men refer to films about the sexual abuse of boys as "gay-themed." They seem to believe that *any* film with same-sex relations in it — even if exploitative or coerced — is automatically about gay identity.

For gay men of the baby-boomer generation, the condoning of adult-youth sex may have to do with nostalgic narcissism — their own memories of feeling the first pangs of queer desire at a time when there were no outlets for them. I've heard 40-something gay men sigh when they reminisce about sexually desiring men as pubescent boys. The problem occurs when they use those memories to condone adult-youth sex today — "gay kids want sex" becomes the justification for it.

Of course, kids have sexual fantasies, some of which involve

sex with adults. So, too, do many adults, gay and straight, have fantasies about kids. But adults have a choice in how to respond to those fantasies. Last summer, I attended a reading in which a gay poet read a long piece about being aroused by a flirtatious young boy in his charge. In response, the man went into the boy's bedroom and took his penis into his mouth as the boy slept. Because the boy got an erection, the poet took that natural physiological response as a stamp of approval for his actions, which constituted sexual abuse. Disturbingly, most of the gay audience gave the poet an appreciative round of applause.

When some gay men venerate adult-youth sex as affirming while simultaneously declaring "We're not pedophiles," they send an inconsistent message to society — and to their lesbian sisters. Women are rarely perpetrators of pedophilia, but lesbians get lumped together with gay men by our critics anyway — and we lose jobs as teachers and sometimes our own kids because of it. The lesbian and gay community will never be successful in fighting the pedophile stereotype until we all stop condoning sex with young people. ▼

**Paula Martinac** is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books. She can be reached care of this publication or at [LNCcolumn@aol.com](mailto:LNCcolumn@aol.com).



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## ACLU's Anthony Romero and others, to be featured at BALIF annual dinner

by Katie Szymanski

Assemble an expected 800 attorneys and judges dedicated to fairness when it comes to sexual orientation, gender, and the law, and you've got one gathering of legal professionals no open-minded citizen would want to miss.

Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom will host its annual dinner on Thursday, March 21 at the San Francisco Hyatt Embarcadero's grand ballroom at an event that organizers promise will be "an interesting and informative program as well as a great networking opportunity."

Anthony Romero, the openly gay executive director of the national chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, will be the keynote

speaker for the evening. Voted unanimously into the ACLU's top position last year, Romero is the first Latino and first openly gay executive director in the organization's history. Also expected to be featured at the dinner is Sharon Smith, surviving partner to dog mauling victim Diane Whipple; Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) will present Smith with a community service award for her activism on behalf of LGBT couples. And a legal service award will be presented to former City Attorney Louise Renne for her groundbreaking work on behalf of the community, including her unwavering defense of San Francisco's equal benefits ordinance.

BALIF will present its \$500 award to the Bay Area law school that has been the most active in raising awareness of LGBT issues on its campus this year, and Pride Law Fund will host its annual silent auction to raise money for law student scholarships. The dance troupe of the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance will kick off the evening's festivities in the grand ballroom, and cocktail hour begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., and the festivities will wrap up around 9.

Tickets to the BALIF dinner are \$50 for law students; \$60 for people who make under \$50,000 a year; and \$80 for other individuals. Tables of 10 and sponsorship opportunities are also available. Tickets are available by credit card purchase at [www.balif.org](http://www.balif.org). Proceeds benefit BALIF, an organization dedicated to taking action on issues of law and justice as they affect the LGBT community. ▼

# Migden wins – and loses

by Wayne Friday

**E**ver since Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** let it be known last year that she was dropping support for her longtime friend and political supporter, Supervisor **Mark Leno**, in favor of former Supervisor **Harry Britt** as her choice to succeed her in the 13th Assembly District, many observers, aware that Leno had been one of Migden's top supporters and fundraisers, have continued to ask, "Why?"

Why, indeed, would Migden, who has long claimed that political loyalty was of utmost importance to her, suddenly turn on Leno, recognized as an up and coming younger gay political leader, in favor of Britt, who had retired from elective politics and has been, for the most part, inactive (some would even say removed) from politics since leaving the Board of Supervisors a decade ago.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, it appears that Migden – with her eye always on higher office – took a close look at the results of the 2000 supervisorial runoff elections in which the winners were mostly anti-**Willie Brown**, progressive candidates supported by Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano**, and decided a change in political strategy on her part would be a wise move.

After all, Ammiano's followers, particularly those highly vocal members of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, had made no secret of their displeasure with Migden for having supported Brown over Ammiano during the last mayoral race. Migden, it seems, apparently knew that she had to at least attempt to reclaim her progressive credentials and at the same time publicly repeat for the "sin" of having supported Brown over Ammiano.

While the decision to convince Britt, long forgotten by much of the younger gay and lesbian community, to enter the race for Assembly against Leno was certainly a joint decision by both Ammiano and Migden, my best sources tell me that the entire thing went down something like this: Ammiano was dead set on another run for mayor in 2003, and Migden was reportedly told none to subtly, that, "I [Ammiano] am running for mayor, and you're not," or something to that effect. Migden, then assuming that this was her chance to make nice with the Ammiano-led progressive left in the city, grudgingly agreed to support Ammiano for mayor in return for the support of Tom and his supporters for a run at **John Burton's** 3rd District state Senate seat that he would be forced to leave in 2004.

As for Leno? Well, I'm told he was thought of as being a guy who was "too independent, going up the political ladder too quickly," and besides, he had the unmitigated gall to announce for Migden's Assembly seat without having formally asked her "permission" - I mean, the nerve of the guy, right? Well, the answer was to talk Britt out of retirement to run for Migden's seat, and hopefully, get Leno out of the picture and the rest would take care of itself.

Of course, even Migden's backers know that if she had wanted to, she could have stayed neutral once both Britt and Leno had be-



Rick Gerhardt  
Harry Britt, center, consoles Assemblywoman Carole Migden last Tuesday when early returns showed Britt losing, as Michael Colbruno looks on.

come candidates, but wait, wasn't she part of the plan to get Britt to run against Leno in the first place? And besides, her staying "officially" out of the Leno-Britt contest wouldn't have been enough to appease the political left that she was trying to make up with, so she turned her back on Leno, coming out instead for her self-described "political mentor," Harry Britt.

Britt was Migden's political "mentor"? Hell, I can remember when Migden told me she planned to run against Britt for the seat he had just been appointed to by then-Mayor **Dianne Feinstein** in the very next election; indeed, I can remember telling Migden that I felt it was a mistake

in that Britt deserved to run for a full term with the support of the community behind him. But that was then and this is now, I suppose.

I've observed gay politics in San Francisco for a long time, and I believe that Ammiano will not only run for mayor next year, but that he will be a strong candidate, probably even ending up in the runoff. Leno is Sacramento-bound, and like Migden, will be a very effective Assembly member. Migden is the Democratic nominee for the 1st District seat on the state Board of Equalization, a rather obscure political position and certainly not one from which even Migden can make many headlines. Indeed, the current holder of that seat, **Johan Klehs**, a former Assembly member himself, has held the job for two terms and was easily defeated last week for the Democratic nomination for state controller by a man who had never run for elective political office before, **Steve Westly**.

Will Migden be happy sitting on the Board of Equalization? Not likely. In fact, talk has started that she is already seriously thinking of entering the race for Burton's state Senate seat that he must give up in two years because of term limits. Migden would make a good state senator, but the problem she now has is: how does she mend fences with those legions of Leno supporters she disappointed when she dumped him to back a losing candidate, Harry Britt? If the comments overheard at Leno's election night victory party were any indication, Migden has a lot of political work to do. Interestingly enough, I heard few comments directed at Ammiano by the overflow crowd at the Leno party – after all, Ammiano could certainly endorse whomever he pleased, which he did (while at the same time helping Migden destroy part of her own base, certainly not a dumb move on the part of Ammiano), and most felt that Britt

was talked into a race he wasn't really interested in anyway, but damn, the knives were certainly out for Migden. "Carole has shown she can't be trusted" and "Does she really think the Milk people will ever fully accept her again?" were some of the kinder anti-Migden comments being tossed about at the Leno party.

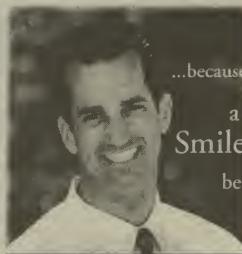
## Electoral afterthoughts

Political observers from both major parties are calling it nothing less than pure brilliance the way that campaign consultant **Garry South** and others in the **Gray Davis** camp managed to practically hand-pick their November Republican opponent. Not only does the Bush White House now look stupid in that they championed – publicly, at that – former Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan** in the California GOP primary (to the annoyance of the state's still-powerful GOP right wing) the Bushies, particularly White House adviser **Karl Rove**, blew it, and even they are said to be wondering if **Bill Simon** is actually ready for the political big leagues, particularly against a political war horse like Davis.

Incidentally, how can political reporters even refer to Mark Leno as somehow having been the "establishment" in the 13th Assembly District race? You're the "establishment" candidate when you have Mayor Brown, Carole Migden, Tom Ammiano, and organized labor against you? (To say nothing of the mud thrown at him by my old friend **Warren Hinckle** from the pages of the Fang-owned *S.F. Examiner* and *Independent*.) Those running the Leno campaign – Barnes, Mosher, Whitehurst, et al., did a hell of a job, and it shows that in politics nice guys sometimes do win despite having close to \$1 million in soft money spent against you (to say nothing of the big bucks Migden threw in). Leno will face a Republican as well as a Libertarian candidate in the November general election, but he is on his way to Sacramento and the guy will make us all proud. Incidentally, the local Republican Party didn't even have the good sense to nominate a gay-friendly moderate, **Josh Kriesel**, against Leno, choosing instead a candidate who a respected gay Republican told me this week refers to the predominantly-gay Log Cabin Club as a bunch of "pansexuals and transvestites."

And the good news from California's 27th Assembly District is, of course, that **John Laird**, the openly gay former mayor of Santa Cruz, won the Democratic nomination and is favored to defeat his GOP opponent in November, meaning that Leno will be joined in the Assembly gay/lesbian caucus by two lesbian members as well as one gay man (also, there is a less-

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# What's so gay about the YMCA?

by Paula Martinac

**March 13, 1919 (83 years ago this month):** In Newport, Rhode Island, a U.S. Navy court begins hearing testimony concerning the homosexual activities of sailors, many of whom use the local YMCA as a rendezvous.

**W**hen the Village People sang about the "fun" young men could have at the YMCA, their lyrics were a nod to the long history of intimate male bonding at this renowned American institution. Almost from its inception in the mid-19th century, the YMCA

provided a meeting place for men who sought each other's company, not just for friendship, but for romance and sex.

Founded in 1844 in London, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was imported to North America seven years later. As industrialization brought young, single men to urban areas, Christian leaders wanted to steer male youth away from sexual licentiousness and toward "wholesome" activities like Bible study. The organization's mission gradually included sex education and physical training, too, since keeping the body fit was supposed to ward off "immorality." The popularity of the Y's physi-

cal program resulted in the construction of the vast network of gymnasiums and pools with which the YMCA is now so strongly identified.

When the YMCA was in its early decades, the word "homosexuality" had not even been coined. Still, a number of the YMCA's "secretaries" — men who oversaw local programs and facilities — were lifelong bachelors. Like the many "spinster" social workers of the late 1800s who entered into Boston marriages — intimate domestic arrangements with other women — the Y's male secretaries often coupled off and lived together in passionate friendships that may have been sexual.

Well-known among these couples were Richard C. Morse and Robert R. McBurney, who co-habited for five years in one of the Y's dormitories. (Interestingly, the YMCA in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, now a gay enclave, was named for McBurney, who never married.) Before sexologists began to study and pathologize same-sex desire in the early 1900s, these bachelor couples were widely revered in Y culture.

But at the turn of the 20th century, there were indications among YMCA officials of a growing nervousness about homosexuality within the ranks of counselors and members. Bachelor secretaries were frowned on,

and married men began to occupy those respected positions. One gay historian has discovered official Y pamphlets from that era that discussed "sexual perversion" and "unnatural immoralities." In a 1909 publication, an association leader warned his colleagues about "ladylike" and "lisping" men who preyed on young boys.

In fact, there seems to have been significant homosexual activity at YMCA by the 1910s, which gay historians have learned about through the records of several well-documented scandals. In 1912, for example, in Portland, Oregon, more than 50 men were indicted in a gay cruising scandal at that city's Y.

What so shocked the local citizenry was that most of the arrested men were upstanding, middle-class members of society — doctors, lawyers, and businessmen — not "lisping" fairies. Court testimony from the scandal points to a thriving gay culture in Portland at that time, in which men made sexual contacts with each other not only at the Y, but in parks and other public spaces.

Similarly, a scandal in Newport, Rhode Island, a few years later further demonstrated how common it was for men and boys to use the Y for assignations. The port city's Army and Navy YMCA opened in 1911 and was often filled to overflowing when the fleet was in. In 1919, Newport's Naval Training Station — under orders from Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt — began a campaign to entrap men engaging in homosexual acts. The sting operation resulted in the arrest of three dozen sailors and civilians. The decoys the navy used reported that the Y, as well as beaches and wharves, were hotbeds of same-sex coupling.

But even well-publicized scandals didn't stop gay activity at YMCA. Cruising was especially heightened from 1940 to 1960. In many cities, the YMCA provided one of the only places where young gay men — who, during wartime, may have been away from home for the first time — could safely meet each other and have sex. Word spread via the gay grapevine that certain Y branches were especially cruisy, like Sloane House in Manhattan.

When it came to gay cruising,

it's likely that many Y officials discreetly looked the other way to avoid the negative publicity that the incidents in Portland and Newport had brought on the hallowed institution. Also, anecdotes from older gay men suggest that many of the YMCA desk clerks may have been queer themselves and therefore didn't want to call attention to gay activity. In addition, as years went by, the Y was becoming more secular and less tied to the "C" in its name.

Several developments in the 1960s led to a decline in gay cruising at the Y, including the increased admission of women to membership and a marketing campaign geared to heterosexual families. But homosexuality at the Y remained an issue, especially after President Lyndon Johnson's chief of staff, Walter Jenkins, was arrested with another man in the bathroom of Washington's G Street YMCA in 1964.

The Village People's tune "YMCA" topped the charts in 1978 and eventually went platinum — in fact, the campy tribute was the group's biggest hit and became a gay anthem. Today, the YMCA still occupies a revered spot in gay culture for its pivotal role in helping to foster gay male sexuality throughout the 20th century. ▼

**Paula Martinac** is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of seven books, including *The Queerest Places: A Guide to Gay and Lesbian Historic Sites*. She can be reached care of this publication or at [POcolumn@aol.com](mailto:POcolumn@aol.com).

#### Suggested reading

Chancey, George. 1989. "Christian Brotherhood or Sexual Perversion? Homosexual Identities and the Construction of Sexual Boundaries in the World War I Era." In *Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Lesbian and Gay Past*, edited by Martin Duberman, Martha Vicinus, and George Chauncey Jr. New York: Penguin.

Gustav-Wrathall, John Donald. 1998. *Take the Young Stranger by the Hand: Same-Sex Relations and the YMCA*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

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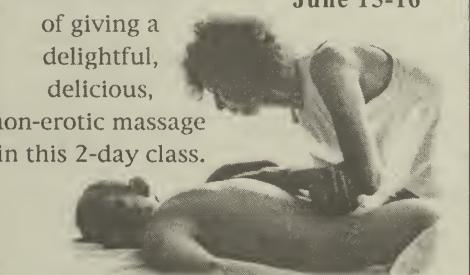
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# Clerk fends off robbery suspect

by Jane Warner

**F**riendly Spirits, 572 Castro, March 9, 10:10 p.m.: A man walked into the liquor store with a gray scarf over the bottom half of his face and started talking to the clerk. Suddenly, the man grabbed the clerk's arm and pulled out a yellow box cutter, holding it at his side. "Open the safe or I'll cut you," he demanded. When the clerk told him she didn't know the combination, the robber pushed her toward the cash register, telling her to open it. Scared for her life, the clerk told the robber she was going to push the alarm button that was located under the cash box. Frightened, the suspect told her, "I'm getting the fuck out of here," and ran out of the store, southbound on Castro toward 19th Street.

Responding police searched the area and notified other merchants whose businesses were open of the attempted robbery.

The armed robber, described as a white male, 25-30 years old, 6 feet 1 inch tall, weighing 160 pounds, wearing a gray cap, gray scarf, gray crew neck shirt, and brown pants, was lost in the area.

## Gap burglary

*The Gap, 1975 Market Street, March 10, 6:15 p.m.*: While shopping inside the clothing store, a male customer noticed three

women stuffing numerous stacks of women's shirts and jeans into several large shopping bags they were holding. The women noticed the man looking at them, but seemed unconcerned and continued taking the clothes. The customer tried to get the attention of the floor clerks, but they were all busy with other customers, so he went to the back of the store, where he informed the manager. The manager immediately went to investigate, but the suspects had already gone, leaving behind a bare display shelf. Eighty-seven articles of clothing were determined missing; the clothes had a retail value of \$2,873. The manager also reported to police that the articles of clothing had attached security sensors which didn't sound off as the women left the store, indicating their bags were most likely lined with foil, which is used to defeat security sensors.

The suspects, described as three African American women in their early 20s, fled with the stolen goods in an unknown direction.

## 'Just passing through'

*400 block of Castro, March 4, 7:36 p.m.*: A police officer observed a man he knew to have a court order to stay away from the Castro

in front of Valley Pride Market. The restraining order was placed against the man as a result of the numerous times he was arrested for allegedly selling methamphetamine in the neighborhood. The officer detained the suspect and placed him under arrest for violation of the stay away order. During a search of the man's possessions, the officer found numerous small bags containing a powdery substance, several capsules marked with the letter "X," 86 blue Zip Lock bags, and a charged stun gun. When the officer showed the suspect what he had found, the man began to cry, "I wasn't hanging out, I was just passing through, honest." The 20-year-old man was taken to Mission Station and booked for possession of narcotics with intent to sell, possession of a prohibited weapon, violation of a court-issued stay away order, and probation violation.

**Crouching men, alert woman**

*3800 block of 21st Street, March 7, 12:40 a.m.*: A woman awoke in the middle of the night to the

sound of a loud noise. When she looked out her bedroom window she saw two men crouching behind some parked cars. The woman woke up her partner and then called 911. Her partner looked out the window and gave a description of the men as the woman relayed the information to the police dispatcher on the phone. As the residents were waiting for the police, the two suspects broke the window of a white Toyota and pried out the face plate of the car's stereo. Seconds later police arrived and found one of the men hiding behind a red SUV and took him into custody. The second suspect jumped out of the white Toyota and started to run despite the officer's demands for him to stop. Officers chased the suspect down 21st Street. As the suspect ran, he removed his jacket and gloves and threw them to the ground. The suspect also threw down a screwdriver and a flashlight, and the face plate of the stereo taken from the Toyota. As the suspect ran westbound on 21st Street near Castro, officers surrounded him and took him into custody without further incident.

The two suspects, ages 23 and 25, were booked for conspiracy, auto burglary, possession of burglary tools, and resisting arrest. ▼

## 9/11 funds

◀ page 1

"In our hearts we were married," he said. "In the eyes of the law domestic partnership was as close as we could get to marriage, but I hope to be recognized in the same way other grieving spouses are recognized by this fund."

When the initial guidelines for the fund were released last year, Lambda worried that lesbian and gay partners would be excluded from the federal fund because same-sex couples cannot currently marry. The organization had argued that if the rules rely exclusively on state standards, the regulations may compound existing gaps in protection, imposing additional trauma on the loved ones of gay and lesbian victims.

The new guidelines against victims' domestic partners are even more offensive to gay rights advocates due to the fact Feinberg said that fetuses, babies, and even illegal immigrants will be covered

under the fund.

"The attorney general, in consultation with Immigration, etc., undocumented aliens who come forward, the families will not suffer any consequences. They are covered by this program. They will get a check," said Feinberg.

Despite talk of unity after the attacks, activists argue that the Bush administration continues to discriminate against gay Americans and their families.

Kenneth Feinberg and the September 11th Fund are telling the American people that regardless of whether a gay man was one of the four heroes on United Flight 93 who saved the U.S. Congress and the White House from utter annihilation, the 911 Fund plans to discriminate against an American hero because most of the country sanctioned such discrimination prior to September 11," wrote gay political analyst John Aravosis in his weekly column on Monday, March 11, referring to San Franciscan Mark Bingham. ▼



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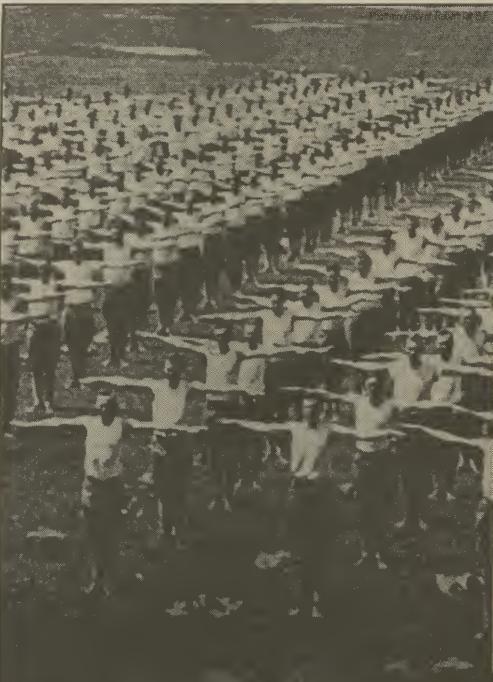
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# Aging and sexuality conference Saturday

by Matthew S. Bajko

**J**ohn de Cecco is not afraid to say he likes having sex with someone younger than himself.

Nor is he shy in detailing how he satiates his sexual desires.

"I enjoy sex. I have learned how to make arrangements that are necessary to get the satisfaction I need," says de Cecco, a professor of psychology at San Francisco State University.

His frankness may not seem all that surprising except for the fact that de Cecco is 77 years old. And he is leading a new sexual revolution of sorts within gay society.

"One taboo, not just in gay society but in society in general, is having sex with someone outside your generation," says de Cecco. "Just because someone who is not in the same generation as you are means they should not have sex with you."

"The fact of the matter is this has gone on for ages. In the gay community it certainly is going on," he adds. "Plus, the attraction can fall on either divide: younger people like sex with older people; older people like to have sex with younger people."

His first major battle against this taboo topic and other misconceived notions about the sexuality and lives of older gay men will be waged this Saturday. Along with his friend and academic colleague Cliff Albergotti, a professor emeritus of physics at the University of San Francisco, de Cecco is organizing an aging and sexuality conference for both younger and

older gay men.

"One of the things the conference is, is an effort to break down a lot of taboos that sort of exist in the gay community but are never discussed very openly or frankly," explains de Cecco, the editor of the *Journal of Homosexuality*.

Talk will be nothing but candid at the conference, with such topics as "The sex lives of old gay men," "The sexual liberation of dirty old gay men," and "Finding and consuming sex and freeing relationships" just some of the many subjects to be addressed.

Nor is it meant solely for the "Glass Coffin" crowd, the older gentlemen encased in the front windows of the Castro's Twin Peaks bar. It is geared toward gay men of all ages who are questioning or worrying about aging within the gay community.

"Gay men are living longer these days. AIDS seems to be more under control. So the question is 'What's the quality of life?'" poses Albergotti, himself 65 years old. "There are all these negative stereotypes about aging so we want to counteract that and break down some of the myths about aging."

The conference aims to take such negative constructs like the dirty old man, the bitter queen, and the chicken hawk, and deconstruct and examine them. De Cecco and Albergotti, who jointly taught a Harvey Milk Institute course last spring titled "Gay Men in Our Later Years," say gay men need to ask themselves and each other "Is there sex life after 40 or even 30?"

"You better believe it!" answers Lucky Choi, who is 45. "Some

things do get better with age."

Choi, who will moderate a panel discussion on aging and sexuality from a multi-colored perspective, says too often gay men cling to their youth instead of embracing their mid-lives.

"If you hang on to something there is a lot of stress and energy going into that something. It is not what I would consider a happy way of life," says Choi. "When I reached 30 I made a resolution to stop thinking about myself as a sex object and stop treating others as such. I thought that was one of the things I found most impeded my personal growth in our community."

Finding one's place within the gay community, and a group of friends to grow old with, is of utmost concern to many older gay men (and lesbians) says Brian de Vries, a professor and director of gerontology programs at SFSU who will discuss the life stories of older gay men at the conference.

De Vries, 45, says breaking



SFSU's Brian de Vries

down the barriers between older and younger gay men serves not just a sexual purpose, but a more vital reason: longevity of the community itself.

"Older gay men and lesbians are actively trying to create a small community to function like a family, to be there to care for each other. They will say 'I want younger gay men in my life to be there in case I need it,'" says de

Vries. "There isn't a real esteem of age in gay community. It is a youth-based culture that works against these circles of care."

If for nothing else, ageism must be conquered within the gay community in order to pass on the cultural traditions, historical knowledge, and lessons of the past from one generation to the next. Whether that dialogue takes place between lovers or friends, those participating in the conference hope to begin that discussion this weekend.

"It is very important for our community's sake to have multi-generational relationships—they can be sexual if that is what the partners want—because there is so much to be learned" when men young and old intermingle says Choi.

The conference will take place this Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the new LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street. The conference fee is a sliding scale from \$25 to \$100, but no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. ▼

## Castro school holds annual fundraiser Sat.

by Matthew S. Bajko

**B**argain hunters and school boosters are invited to once again support the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy at this weekend's fifth annual silent auction and rummage sale.

The school, which has a special focus on arts and music education as well as civil rights, hopes to raise

enough money to pay for a face-lift to its school play yard. Currently a defunct parking lot and activity area, plans instead call for a theatre setting area in front of a new mural "Raven Brings Light."

The alternative public school wants to expand its garden, plant trees, and create a more naturalistic feeling for its 250 students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The first \$5,000 raised at the event will be ear-

marked for the playground project.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 16. Early bird admittance will begin at 8 a.m. with a \$5 entrance fee. Last bids for the silent auction will be taken at 3 p.m.

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy is located at 4235 19th Street at Diamond in the heart of the Castro. For more information, call (415) 241-6276. ▼

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# Gay men face risk for genital warts virus

by Matthew S. Bjorko

**A**ccording to a national survey, men who have sex with men are five times more likely than heterosexual men to acquire an incurable virus that can lead to penile and anal cancer.

The research is the first national data compiled on the prevalence of human papillomavirus among gay and bisexual men. The study found that 38 percent of MSM in the United States are infected with HPV type 16.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released the

new findings at the National STD Prevention conference in San Diego during the week of March 4. The findings are based on a representative sample of 83 MSM surveyed from 1988 to 1994 in the CDC's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Although cautioning the data are preliminary, the authors stressed the need for more research into the clinical implications of HPV-16 for MSM.

"While there is significant research on the link between HPV-16 and cervical cancer, much less is known about the impact of HPV on anal and reproductive

tract cancers in gay and bisexual men," said Stuart Berman, head of the CDC's STD epidemiology and surveillance branch. "These new findings begin to provide information about the transmission of this STD in this population."

HPV often infects people without causing noticeable symptoms, although it sometimes causes genital warts. While genital warts can be treated, there is currently no treatment for the much more common, asymptomatic HPV infection, which may develop into cancer.

"In a vast majority of people, the infection is cleared from the

body naturally and does not lead to infection," said Berman. "Women are screened regularly but men are not. There is far less attention given to HPV and anal cancer."

Every year, about 5.5 million people acquire a genital HPV infection. According to the CDC, 8 percent of heterosexual men and 19 percent of women are infected with the virus.

The findings give merit to health officials' suspicions that there was a link between a rise in certain cancers and HPV infections in MSM.

"I think at one level some of us

were not surprised given that the epidemic of HIV infection among MSMs, since the beginning of the epidemic, has shown increases in anal cancer," said Ronald Valdiserri, deputy director of the CDC's National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention.

While more research needs to be done on HPV, the researchers said gay men need to take safe sex messages seriously.

"HPV-16 exposure is a perfect example, particularly for individuals with immune systems that are not completely healthy, of why you want to continue to practice safe sex," said Valdiserri. ▼

## Leno wins

◀ page 1

or 42.85 percent, to Britt's 20,072 votes or 39.13 percent, according to unofficial returns.

Steve Phillips and Holli Thier, the other two candidates in the Democratic primary, finished far behind.

"It wasn't as close as it appeared last Tuesday," Leno said, referring to the latest unofficial results.

The contentious primary battle pitted Leno against Britt, who was backed by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) and Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano. Mayor Willie Brown backed Phillips. In the end, Leno won without the support of those political heavyweights or organized labor, which backed Britt and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in soft money on Britt's behalf.

Leno will face Gail Neira, the winner of the Republican primary, and a Libertarian candidate, Christopher R. Maden in the November general election. The winner will replace the term-out Migden, who is now running for the First District on the Board of Equalization. Because the 13th Assembly District is heavily Democratic, Leno is expected to win and become one of the first openly gay men to serve in the Assembly. Another gay man, former Santa Cruz Mayor John Laird, also won his primary in the 27th District and is favored to win the general election as well.

Leno said that while Britt has yet to call him, Migden did make a congratulatory call, as did Ammiano and Phillips.

Robert Haaland, Britt's campaign manager, did not return a call from the B.A.R. seeking comment.

While he is heavily favored to win in November, Leno is not taking anything for granted and is already having discussions with his campaign staff regarding how his race will proceed.

"I'm already talking to potential endorsers and taking the next steps to broaden our strengths," he said.

The Leno-Britt race divided the LGBT community. The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club backed Britt, while the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club was firmly behind Leno. Most of the transgender community supported Leno because of his groundbreaking legislation last year that resulted in transgender city workers getting medical benefits. The medical cannabis community also supported Leno because of his work in that area to help streamline city procedures relating to medical marijuana.

Leno said that he plans to reach out to those who supported Britt or another candidate in the primary.

"That's very much my intent," he said. "Certainly our issues are the same. District 13 has always been and will continue to be a beacon of progressive light and leadership so I sincerely ask all like-minded folks to join the campaign for the November election."

If, as expected, Leno is victorious in November and joins the Assembly, he said that housing, transportation, education, healthcare, and energy will be his early focus.

"Also I want to focus on closing loopholes in Proposition 34, the state campaign finance reform measure," Leno said.

According to Leno, Britt benefited heavily from independent expenditures. "I think there was an inordinate amount of soft money spent against me," Leno said. ▼

## Muscle mag

◀ page 1

such testosterone tempered talk would offend the magazine's gay readers, who started canceling subscriptions after reading the offensive letters and editorial response.

Openly gay San Francisco resident Aymeric Maudous was so outraged by the remarks, he canceled his subscription after being a faithful reader for the last four years.

"Besides being extremely vulgar and commonplace, your response and eagerness to publish this kind of cliched anti-gay blather is discriminatory and grossly offensive," wrote Maudous in an e-mail to the magazine. "It is also ludicrous to (sic) on your part to print this kind of thing given that a large percentage of your readers

and subscribers are probably gay."

While Maudous also sent his letter to GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the media watchdog group had already seen the inflammatory remarks.

Scott Seomin, GLAAD's entertainment media director, happened to be waiting in line at the grocery store when he picked up the March issue. Soon thereafter, Seomin wrote to the editor about his failure to grasp the severity of the comments.

"Your 'We hear ya, bro' response sends a dangerous message: that when a straight guy perceives a threat to his masculinity, the appropriate response is to put down gay men," wrote Seomin. "Muscle Media is designed to motivate and inform a diverse male audience on fitness and health issues – not validate straight readers' heterosexu-

ality. To those readers who suffer from anxiety when they see photos of muscular men in the context of a fitness magazine: I suggest you switch to *Playboy*."

The two men weren't alone. The magazine published two other letters in the April issue (on newsstands now) echoing their concerns.

As one e-mail stated, "...the quickest sprint I've ever done was to the phone to cancel my subscription!"

And as reader John W. put it, "If they want women, they should just buy *Playboy*."

Kennedy did not return calls from the Bay Area Reporter seeking comment. But in an e-mail to GLAAD, he responded, "I wish to send you my sincerest apologies for our misguided comment in the March issue of MM."

next page ►

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Adult AIDS Clinical Trials Unit at UCSF

# BACW celebrates 20 years with new name, dance this Saturday

by Matthew S. Bajko

After 20 years, Bay Area Career Women is changing its name, moving into a new home, and refocusing its vision. Dropping the career in place of community, the group is getting off the corporate ladder for a more social one.

One of the first social things the new BACW is doing is a dance this weekend at the new community center.

"Our focus is on serving the entire Bay Area lesbian community, not just career women. We want to provide a safe and welcoming place for all lesbians in the Bay Area," said BACW President Maggie Trevor.

"There has been an ongoing debate about the meaning of the word career. We decided we needed to get rid of that word," added former BACW President Betty Sullivan.

The group will now be officially known as the Bay Area Community of Women.

"There is no better way for BACW to make clear its focus than to include the word 'community' in its name," said Sullivan. "It's an all-embracing organization which serves, before anything else, the Bay Area lesbian community."

The organization is open to women who work or don't, and does not restrict its definition of the word lesbian.

"The leadership of BACW has chosen not to engage in a discussion of the questions around the definition of lesbian. We have no policy defining what a lesbian is," said Sullivan.

The group hopes moving into a new office space inside the Charles M. Holmes Campus of the new Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center will make it more accessible to current and potential members.

"Our presence at the center provides BACW the opportunity to raise our profile and extend our reach to everyone in the community," said Mindy Bokser, BACW's vice president of community relations.

"When women walk into the center looking for community, we will be there to welcome them. Working side-by-side with the center and other organizations, we will be able to provide a new level of services, programs and events for the lesbian community."

Some of those events and programs include a post-Dyke March dance at the center on Saturday, June 29; monthly events at the center, including lectures, movies, and discussion groups, starting in April; and a brunch program for women who are new to the Bay Area or just coming out, to find community.

"These are three-on-three brunches, where three newcomers have an opportunity to meet three community members, and get in-

formation on the Bay Area lesbian community in a safe and supportive environment," explained Sullivan.

When it was founded in 1983, BACW had three primary functions: networking, fundraising, and visibility for lesbians. The group continues to provide personal and professional development through events, awards outstanding lesbians with its LAVA Awards (Lesbians of Achievement Vision and Action), and funds individuals and organizations doing work on lesbian issues through its "A Fund of Our Own."

For the past 15 years, BACW has operated out of an office building at 55 New Montgomery Street across from the Palace Hotel. While a good location for those working women downtown, it didn't resonate with other women outside the Financial District.

"Unfortunately, the office has been inaccessible. It is not convenient and not a welcoming place for people to come," said Sullivan.

To celebrate its anniversary, new name, and office, the group is throwing itself a dance this weekend. DJ Lori Z will spin from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, March 16 in the Rainbow Room of the center at 1800 Market Street. Admission is \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members. All genders are welcome.

For more information about the event or to become a member, visit BACW's Web site at [www.bacw.org](http://www.bacw.org). ▼

## AIDS Update confab starts Tues.

by Liz Highleyman

The 14th annual National HIV/AIDS Update conference will take place next week, March 19-22, at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. Unlike many conferences that move from city to city, NAUC consistently takes place in San Francisco.

The theme of this year's conference, sponsored by the American Foundation for AIDS Research, is "Prevention, Treatment, and Care: Forging an Integrated Response."

One focus of the conference will be HIV prevention policies, including recent controversies over funding and efficacy of prevention programs. There will be a discussion on "The Politics of Prevention," led by Terje Anderson of the National Association of People with AIDS and others. A special session will focus on effective prevention campaigns.

While not as medically focused as the recent retrovirology conference, NAUC will also feature leading experts and the latest information on HIV/AIDS treatment and care geared toward front-line providers.

The conference will include over 100 workshops and symposia on topics such as drug resistance, delayed treatment, and HIV and hepatitis co-infection. NAUC typically brings together over 1,000 researchers, healthcare professionals, AIDS service organization staff, patient advocates, and people living with HIV/AIDS.

"There remains a serious need for a comprehensive response to HIV/AIDS that includes novel research, compassionate treatment and care, and increased funding for targeted prevention," said conference chair Dr. Mervyn Silverman. "An understanding of treatment options will strengthen prevention education efforts; likewise, caregivers need to under-

stand and integrate prevention outreach into the menu of services they provide for people with HIV/AIDS.

This year's keynote address, given by Miss Universe 2001 Denise Quinones, will focus on the importance of providing direct services to people living with HIV/AIDS and acknowledging the contributions of those working on the front lines of the epidemic.

Reflecting the recent emphasis on worldwide HIV/AIDS issues, other featured speakers will include Art Ammann of Global Strategies for HIV Prevention, Polly Harrison of the Alliance for Microbicide Development, Beril Lindblad of UNAIDS, Anne Peterson of USAID, and Phil Wilson of the African American AIDS Policy and Training Institute.

For more information on the conference or to register, call (514) 874-1998 or visit [www.amfar.org/cgi-bin/iowa/nauc](http://www.amfar.org/cgi-bin/iowa/nauc). ▼

## Muscle mag

◀ previous page

He added, "I, and the rest of the MM team, deeply regret even allowing such an ignorant viewpoint to make it into the magazine, and we have written an apology in our April issue. I know it may be of little solace, but moving forward all we can do is acknowledge that we made a mistake and do our best to

provide you the latest information and inspiration, in a supportive, non-judgmental way."

However, the response in the April issue falls short of apologizing to gay readers. Kennedy simply clarifies his previous comment under the headline "The women are back, but for the right reasons," on why women are again gracing the magazine's cover.

"We received a lot of grief for our misguided comment in the

March issue. All we meant was that we, too, wanted to see more inspiring female physiques back in MM. We certainly do not support the beliefs of a few close-minded and insecure individuals, and we also agree that there are a few of our readers who could probably benefit from a program to strengthen fragile egos."

Perhaps the magazine will run an article on just such a program in an upcoming issue. ▼

## Fun in drag in center



RICK GERHART

**W**ild fans greeted the Boy Wonder group, above, at last weekend's "Queer Youth-a-palooza," a night of drag, fashion, free shopping, dancing, poetry, and fun at the new LGBT Community Center. The drag group performed at the Drag King Junior contest, where Alex Brady walked off with the first-place gift bag. Hostess for the event, Sister Kitty Catalyst, hopes to make it an annual affair.

## Hundreds turn out for 'Family Day' at center

by Joe Dignan

**A**cakewalk is a sort of musical chairs except there are no chairs and nobody loses. "That was my favorite thing," said Felicia Park-Rogers at the "Family Day" opening of the new LGBT Community Center on Sunday, March 10.

"The Sisters with the cakewalk with the kids. It was the perfect queer family community moment. Then the Sisters gave them all cupcakes for participating."

More than 600 kids and families came to the Sunday afternoon family opening of San Francisco's new LGBT Community Center. Most participated in the cakewalk, danced to Madonna's "Don't Tell Me to Stop - Loving You" and got their faces painted by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

Park-Rogers is the executive director of COLAGE (Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere), which, along with Our Family Coalition will produce most of the family programming for the new center.

"It took me a long time to find COLAGE," said Park-Rogers, who grew up with her gay dad. She said she hopes that having several LGBT family organizations under one roof at the Charles M. Holmes Campus of The Center will allow queer parents and kids to easily find the help they need.

"We've got our one-stop shopping place here now," said Jon Logan, Our Family Coalition board member. Logan's daughter, Lily, is 8. "She loved the scavenger hunt. And she's madly in love with the Sisters," Logan said.

COLAGE sent the kids and their parents all around the building on the scavenger hunt to introduce them to the new four-

story community center. "My favorite thing?" asked Kathleen Crandall, in the Our Family office across the room from a small red wedding arch, decorated with hearts. "Is seeing people standing under the arch. Making it fun and easy and sweet." Our Family registered 21 new domestic partners last Sunday, bringing their total to 155 since California's gay civil rights bill, AB25 went into effect in January. Our Family has been pushing for registration, because most of the rights provided under the bill apply only to those who are registered domestic partners with the state.

The kids also made buttons and painted a mural they will donate to the center.

But according to Sister Constance Craving, "My favorite thing was this beautiful man, about 35, who asked me to paint his face like a goddess."

According to Our Family Coalition Executive Director Charlie Spiegel, the group will take the whole event on the road this Saturday, March 16 to the Berkeley YMCA at 2001 Allston Way, from 6-9 p.m.

Other upcoming queer family events in the Bay Area are a forum on AB25, tonight (Thursday, March 14) from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Community Center, 1800 Market, with legal experts Jenny Pizer of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and representatives from Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom and the California Alliance for Pride and Equality. This event is free. More information on this and other events is at [www.ourfamily.org](http://www.ourfamily.org) or by calling (415) 861-1960.

COLAGE will host an ice skat-

ing party for children and youth who have a queer parent on Saturday, March 23, from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Yerba Buena Ice Skating Center, 750 Folsom. Discounted rates for admission are \$5 (12 and under), \$6.50 (13 and older) plus \$2.50 for skate rental. More information is available from COLAGE at (415) 861-5437 or [www.colage.org](http://www.colage.org). ▶

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# ID changes: What you need to know

by Chris Daley

The following is an occasional column compiled by the Transgender Law Project that answers basic legal questions of interest to San Francisco's transgender, intersex, gender-varient, and genderqueer communities.

We get a lot of questions about changing documents at the Transgender Law Project. The purpose of this column is to provide basic information about changing your government documents and records to more accurately reflect your identity. For the most part, you'll be able to make these changes without the assistance of an attorney. In rare cases, however, your particular situation will be more easily resolved if you have legal representation.

Because of the general nature of the information below, you might find that, in some areas, the suggestions are not specific enough for your situation. As always, you should feel free to contact me at TLP (contact information below) to discuss any questions you have.

#### What makes your name 'legal'?

Your legal name is the identity by which you are officially known. Your birth name is a legal name because it is on your birth certificate and is used on all of your legal documents. If you want to change that name, you have two options, a "common law" name change and a "court ordered" name change.

Common law name change: Some people who change their name never get formal recognition of the change. They simply adopt a new name and use it over time. If this name is used consistently for business and personal affairs, it can become your legal name through what is called a "common law" name change. This is a free method of changing your name. However, it does not create the kind of solid paper trail that a court ordered name change will.

Court ordered name change: A court ordered name change is one where a judge approves your request to change your name. You begin the process by picking up the proper forms, filling them out, and submitting them at the county courthouse. Once you pay a fee (or submit a fee waiver) you will be given a court date within six weeks.

During those six weeks, you are required to take out a small ad in the classified section of a local paper stating that you will be changing your name. Most everyone who changes their name, regardless of their reason for doing so, has to do this. In a few limited cases, a judge can waive this requirement. Judges will sometimes do this for people who need to protect their identity (often true for survivors of domestic violence) or who are unable to pay for the classified ad (cost can range from \$50 to \$120 in San Francisco).

On your court date, you will appear before a judge with proof

that you have taken out the ad. The judge may ask you a question or two about the name change. If all of your paperwork is in order and no one objects to your name change request, the judge will approve your request. This name is now your legal name.

#### What makes your gender legal?

No one knows for sure. California allows you to change the gender marker on your California birth certificate. Some legal experts believe that this change will legally change your gender. However, as far as we know, this theory has not been tested in court. The reason you might want to try to "legalize" your gender is that some laws (marriage and child custody, mostly) might require you to be a certain gender in order to utilize them. And while changing the gender marker on your California birth certificate will not guarantee that this gender is "legal," it is the best available method of getting recognition of your gender identity.

The process for getting the gender marker on your California birth certificate changed is similar to the one used to get a name change. The primary difference is that you'll need a letter from your health care provider declaring that you have undergone "surgical treatment for the purpose of altering [your] sexual characteristics to those of the opposite sex." (California Health and Safety Code 103425.)

What "surgical treatment" means is unclear. In most cases, a letter from your physician or surgeon documenting that you have undergone the "recommended treatment" for altering your anatomy and appearance is sufficient. This is true regardless of what kind of surgery you have had. However, a judge is allowed to ask you specific questions about your treatment and can deny your request if your treatment does not include genital surgery. From our experience, however, denial on this ground is rare. It is more probable that the judge will grant your request and ask the state to issue you a new birth certificate.

(Remember that this is only true if you have a California birth certificate. If you have a birth certificate from another state, this option may not be open to you. If you have questions about your specific situation, contact me at TLP.)

#### Notice to people under 18

If you are under 18, and are not an emancipated minor, you will need to take some extra steps to do either of the above. Because of your age, a parent or legal guardian will need to apply for your name or gender marker change. When you pick up the forms at the courthouse be sure to pick up the additional paperwork necessary for applicants under 18.

#### Changing legal documents and records Birth certificate

Once you have completed the above court procedures for changing your birth certificate, you

must file an "Affidavit to Amend Record" with the California Department of Vital Records (VR).

To do this you will need to fill out form VS 24. The form can be obtained from your county recorder's office, your local health department, or by calling VR at (916) 557-6073. Currently the fee for getting your birth certificate changed is \$20. This includes one certified copy of the new certificate. Additional certified copies can be ordered for \$13 each.

#### Driver's license

The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has created a form (DL 328) for requesting a change to your name and/or gender marker. You can pick up a copy of the form at any DMV location – usually at the information desk. Changing your name and/or gender marker on your driver's license, does not create a legal name or gender change. It simply creates identification that matches your name usage and gender identity.

You do not need a court order to change your name. However, to change your gender marker, a licensed California physician will need to document the fact that you are transgender by signing the DL 328 form. Once you have completed the form, take it back to the DMV and pay the fee (currently \$12). You will receive a temporary license with your new information.

Your permanent license will not be issued until the DMV runs a check against your Social Security records. Therefore, in order to get your permanent license, you'll need to also update your Social Security records (see below). If you have any ongoing problems with this procedure, call the main DMV office in Sacramento (916-657-4484). An analyst can assist you in dealing with local officers who may be confused or uncooperative.

Special note: if you are under 18 years of age, you will need a signature from a parent or guardian to request a name and/or gender marker change on your license. Use form DL 44 for this signature.

#### Social Security

To change your name with the Social Security Administration, you will need your old Social Security card, proof of your old identity, your temporary or newly issued drivers license, and proof of your new identity. Take these materials to a Social Security office, fill out an SS-5 form (available online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)), and request that they change your name.

While Social Security officially requires that you have already completed, or at least started, surgery in order to get your gender marker changed, this policy is not universally enforced. Often, people who have not started surgery, but who have a letter from their health care provider stating that they are "undergoing treatment" get the marker changed.

#### Passport

Having your name changed on your passport is similar to having it changed on your Social Security card, although it is most easily done with a court order. Changing your gender marker, however, **next page ▶**

## OBITUARIES

**Patricia A. Hatlen**

Patricia A. Hatlen, 53, native daughter of San Francisco, passed away March 8, 2002. She is the 30 year life-long partner of Mary Jane Wood, sister of Leif Hatlen. She is a beloved niece, aunt and friend of many. She was a professional Librarian, worked with the Peninsula Library System's Community Information Program, and was a member of the American Library Association. Pat was an enthusiastic Square Dancer, and a member (former Vice-president) of Foggy City Dancers, Midnight Squares and PACE.

Pat met Mary Jane while in graduate school together at the University of Maryland, both taking a course of Juvenile Delinquency. They received their degrees together in 1983. They have been together ever since then. They resided in Pat's girlhood home in the Sunset district of San Francisco.

There will be a Celebration of Pat's Life on Sunday, March 17, in Ellard Hall, the parish hall below Most Holy Redeemer Church on Diamond Street.

The Celebration will be from 2-5 p.m., and will include several square dance tips. Please come share your memories of Pat with her other friends.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to an organization that Pat supported: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library (100 Larkin St., San Francisco 94102-4733); San Francisco SPCA (2500-16th St., San Francisco, 94103); Foggy City Dancers (PO Box 14324, San Francisco, 94114); or Midnight Squares (PO Box 14483, San Francisco, 94114).

**Robert Irving Mills**

Robert Irving Mills, oldest son of Morton and Julie Mills, passed away Sunday, February 24, 2002 at the age of 52 after a brief illness. Robert was a third generation San Francisco resident. He is survived

by his domestic partner of 12 years, Jeffrey Wright. He is also survived by his mother, Julie Mills, his sister and brother in law, Donne and Sonny Davis, and his brother and sister in law Aric and Joan Mills. He is also survived by his niece and her husband, Deborah Davis and Matt Porter, in addition to his nephew, Mark Davis. Bob comes from a loving, supportive and caring family including Aunt Sylvia and Uncle Jerry Solomon and Aunt Fay and Uncle Phil Blank. He also leaves behind many caring cousins in the Bay Area and Portland.

Bob attended Lowell High School followed by University of California at Berkeley where he majored in French Literature. With the exception of several years in upstate New York, Bob lived his entire life in San Francisco. He was the owner and manager of "The Ideal" on Mission Street. Bob was an avid Bridge player, a traveler of the world, and was fluent in many languages.

In lieu of flowers a donation in Bob's memory can be made to Maitri Compassionate Care, 401 Duboce Ave., San Francisco, CA 94117; phone (415) 558-3000.

**OBITUARY POLICY**

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.



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**Our Man Friday**

◀ page 9

bian state Senator, Sheila Kuehl).

Having famous fathers was of little help in last week's primary election. Assemblyman Lou Papan's daughter, Gina Papan, lost in her bid to replace her dad in the 19th Assembly District, despite having been handed \$300,000 from her dad's campaign coffers. Rod Diridon Jr., a Santa Clara councilman, failed to win the Assembly nomination in the 22nd District despite his famous father, Rod Sr., having been in politics for years. And, of course, Kimiko Burton, daughter of state Senate President Pro Tem

John Burton, lost in her bid to keep the job of S.F. public defender. Kim Burton, a bright, and very qualified attorney, is not finished in politics by a long shot.

However, Representative Loretta Sanchez, a Democrat who represents the state's 47th Congressional District, could well be joined in the next Congress by her sister, Linda Sanchez (D), nominated in the 39th District, which would make them the first sister act ever in the U.S. Congress.

In politics, you'd think that when the "write-in" slot manages to get more votes than a listed candidate, particularly one whose name has been on the ballot before, the candidate should maybe take the hint and give up his ca-

reer in elective politics (reading this Gilbert Criswell?).

My "quote of the week" comes from none other than George W. Bush (you know, the "Evil Axis" guy), who openly pushed former L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan into the race as his choice as the GOP candidate for governor against Gray Davis. Bush, when informed by Representative David Dreier (R-Orange County) on election day that it appeared that the other guy, conservative Bill Simon, was going to take the GOP nomination away from Riordan, reportedly frowned and quickly replied (supposedly with a bit of tongue-in-cheek) "I was for him all along."

And how was your week? ▼

# Sphere and there

by Jim Provenzano

**S**pheres once made of leather, now plastic, or some pleather hybrid, are often what make a sport. Whirling it, kicking it, tossing it and catching it define who wins, who loses.

When the sphere is a several-hundred pound piece of sculpture, it serves as a symbol of what survived, and what didn't, six months ago.

Seeing the barrage of six-month footage, the solemn podium speeches, and that horned sculpture propped up out of the World Trade Center rubble, was simultaneously inspirational, painful, and cloyingly insincere. Ghostly columns of light, albeit perfectly symbolic, just don't cut it, it seems. People really need a chunk of metal to worship when they

mourn.

For all the rights being fought for, it seems it's easier for frauds to get Red Cross funds than the gay surviving partners of 9/11 victims. Half a million dollars for a lovely

light show, and sev-

eral people I know still can't get their landlords to clean their homes of commemorative toxins.

But rituals sometimes overshadow practicalities, in the grand scale.

Is sports a way to cleanse the mind through sweat? Does it help focus our culture in its goals, or distract us from its problems on a grand scale?

And why do so many sports teams pose nude with only their balls covering their balls?

Until that's answered, here are some distracting inspirations, or inspirational distractions.



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## Suit to fit

Team San Francisco's uniform try-on schedule continues this weekend at two events. This year's uniforms rival the always stylish Canada's in tastefulness.

You can see them, try one on, and have an ale this Saturday, March 16, from 3-6 p.m. at the Pilser Inn, 225 Church Street (at Market). The Pilser hosts several sporty events throughout the year, and, I hear, welcomes traveling hobbits.

Busy? Stop by Kzar Stadium's track & field area on Sunday, March 17 at 11 a.m. Questions? Email [info@teamsf.org](mailto:info@teamsf.org).

## Pool's gold

This weekend, San Francisco's water polo team goes Hollywood.

West Hollywood Aquatics (WH2O) is hosting the second annual Shot o' Gold water polo scrimmage on Sunday, March 17 - St. Patrick's Day. No, the pool water will not be dyed green, or even teal.

Festivities will start the night before on Saturday, March 16 at the WH2O/Sports Alliance social hour at Du-Par's in West Hollywood.

Cheer SF and Cheer LA will also be in attendance, making it a peppy on shore as off. The evening will also feature a raffle, and Shot o' Gold T-shirts. Then, on Sunday, the big water polo scrimmage takes place.

Teams from San Francisco, British Columbia, and Seattle recently competed at the fifth Seattle Otters' International Water Polo Tournament at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center. The Seattle Otters hosted 22 teams - including 18 returning squads from California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Ontario, Canada.

For more information on this weekend's event, including links to maps and T-shirt previews, check out: [www.wh2o.org/shotogold](http://www.wh2o.org/shotogold) or [www.tsunamipolo.org/](http://www.tsunamipolo.org/).

For info on the general GLBT swim club, visit [www.sftsunami.org/](http://www.sftsunami.org/).

## Scramble, be

The LA/SF connection continued on rugby fields here in the Bay Area, where the Fog hosted a scrimmage with the Los Angeles Rebellion last Saturday. The Fog won 35-19. This newest of gay sports groups already has 50 members! They'll be playing in Reno this weekend. Maybe there you can find the answer to that nude team photo question.

Get lost in the Fog at [www.sffog.org/](http://www.sffog.org/) or call the Fog hotline at (415) 820-GUTS.

## Hanging out

Opening events continued at



Belles of the balls: Teams the world over need uniforms!

the GLBT Community Center Campus Theatre, er, Holmes Campus, with flair and festivities.

Among the most athletic of performances was Keith Hennessy's Circo Zero, which invaded the center lobby with gymnastics, baby pool baptisms (well-timed with the rain), and twirling dancer/tumblers who elegantly wrapped themselves in ropes of descending blue fabric. Site-specific performance lives!

There's nothing more fun than athletic art. Of course, when sports and art breed, you get spart.

Architectural and nomenclatural oddities aside, the energy shared among the throngs of queers at the center was truly fun, and a hopeful start to a more clear sense of community among our fractured family. I just hope they call Central Services about those ducts.

## Roped out

You can celebrate getting your taxes done next month in Los Angeles with a yippie ki-yay, that is if you're into guys and gals in Stetsons, tight denim, and pointy boots. The LA Rodeo invades the City of Angels April 19-21.

The Greater Los Angeles Area Chapter of the Golden State Gay Rodeo Association is hosting the 18th annual L.A. Rodeo. This year they moved back to the Los Angeles Equestrian Center in Griffith Park, a verdant area that's simply crawling with gay history.

The theme name, "Blast From The Past" is not in honor of 9/11, but commemorates their returning to their original location.

For more info, visit: [www.larodeo.com/rodeo/index.html](http://www.larodeo.com/rodeo/index.html).

## Dude looks like a lady

Athletic events are picking up for the Gay Games and for the FrontRunner's "social" season. They have two big events coming up. The Little Black Dress Run is on April 6. That's the faboo drag event that gives fashion a foot up, and benefits area organizations.

A dance and fashion contest that evening at Kimo's will top off the Little Black Dress event, so get on down to Community Thrift, Piedmont's drag shop, or Victoria's Secret to get your drag in gear.

FrontRunners regularly hosts brunches and other social events for fellow GLBT runners. "We usually host FrontRunners from around the country for the annual Bay To Breakers," said Ann Ludwig, FrontRunners organizer.

## Web of wonder boy

Yes, the new *Spider-Man* movie is all about Tobey Maguire's taut muscles. The tag line for some ads is all about one kind of web, but on the one you may use more frequently, those gay sports Web sites just keep popping up!

You can read my interview with Olympic swimmer Mark Tewksbury on the newest gay sports Web site, [GaySports.com](http://GaySports.com).

You can find or add listings to your favorite sports group, and they even have a little personals area too.

Get info or more gay sports at [www.teamsf.org](http://www.teamsf.org), [www.outsports.com](http://www.outsports.com), and [www.sportscomplex.org](http://www.sportscomplex.org). ▼

year. Knoller and Noel were arrested and jailed after a grand jury indicted them on March 27, 2001.

Knoller also testified that contrary to a prosecution witness, she is not an associate of the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang. Knoller and Noel's adopted son, Paul Schneider, is a member of the gang, according to state corrections officials. Schneider and his cellmate, Dale Bretches, claim to be the legal owners of the couple's two dogs.

When Ruiz asked Knoller if she was associated with the gang she answered: "I'm Jewish. My family are survivors of the Holocaust, so no."

In tough cross-examination of Knoller on Tuesday, March 12, Hammer questioned why she never apologized to Whipple's family or Smith after the attack. Knoller said she didn't think it was

appropriate. When Hammer asked about her tears on the witness stand and whether she was crying for Whipple or herself, Knoller insisted her tears were for everyone involved in the tragedy.

When asked about the numerous witnesses who described frightening close encounters with the couple's dogs, Knoller said that the descriptions of those incidents were inaccurate.

Prosecutors allege that the couple had ample warning that their two dogs were unsafe around people but they did virtually nothing to mitigate the danger. Noel and Knoller insist the attack was a freak accident that no one could have predicted.

The trial was moved from San Francisco to a downtown Los Angeles courtroom because of the extensive pretrial publicity in the Bay Area. ▼

## COMMUNITY NEWS

## Tax-Aid

◀ page 3

credit (EIC) and other tax credits. A special tax benefit for working people who earn low or moderate incomes, the EIC is designed to reduce these workers' tax burden, help supplement their wages, and assist people making the crucial transition from welfare to work. Unfortunately, Leal noted, low-income taxpayers are often unaware of their EIC eligibility and miss out on significant refunds.

"Through state and federal tax credits, millions of dollars can be returned to low-wage workers," Leal said, "benefiting both San Francisco and the Bay Area's hard-working taxpayers."

Last year Tax-Aid served more than 1,200 families who received nearly \$1 million in refunds. This year, the organization hopes to help 2,000 local taxpayers get back nearly \$1.5 million.

To participate, taxpayers need to bring W-2s, other proofs of income, and tax forms. Bilingual assistance is available in Spanish, Russian, and Chinese.

Upcoming Tax-Aid sessions include:

- St. Peter's Parish School, 1249 Alabama Street between 24th and 25th near Harrison, March 16, 23, and April 6, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

- Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco, Columbia Park Unit, 450 Guerrero Street between 16th and 17th, March 16, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

- On Lok, 1441 Powell Street at Broadway, March 16, 30, and April 6, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

- Southeast Community Center, 1800 Oakdale Avenue at Phelps off Third Street, March 16, 30, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

- In Oakland, at the Lincoln Recreation Center, 250 10th Street at Harrison, March 16, 23, 30, 9 a.m.-noon.

For other locations or more information, call Tax-Aid at (415) 281-1600. ▼

## Queers elected

◀ page 4

Democratic Party reflects the diversity of San Francisco's queer community with the first transgender person Robert Haaland, getting elected; a queer artist Debra Walker, two queer poz guys for the second time, and two queers of color, Criss Romero and Bill Barnes," said Sheehy, noting that both he and Barnes are people living with HIV.

Barnes, who said he would use his positive status to bring attention to the Bush administration's slashing Ryan White funding for AIDS, also said that registering voters was one of his priorities.

"Particularly because of the negative tone of the Assembly campaign, I look forward to re-energizing people," said Barnes, whose full-time job is working as an aide to Supervisor Chris Daly. "It's certainly an historic step, with the first gay man going to the Assembly, Carole Migden on the Board of Equalization, and so many LGBT people on the committee."

The San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee is the elected body of the San Francisco Democratic Party and is widely considered one of the most influential political groups in the city. Its mission is to ensure the electoral victory of Democratic candidates who uphold the values of the Democratic Party, maximize voter registration and voter turnout in all communities, and educate voters on issues of importance. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER  
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## LEGAL NOTICES

## CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

## FREE LIGHT BULBS!

Find ways to save water and energy and get a free compact fluorescent light bulb! The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is offering free water buildings in San Francisco. Those who participate will receive a free compact fluorescent light bulb which uses 50% less electricity than traditional incandescent light bulb. Supplies are limited and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

To schedule a free walk-through, call SFPUC's Water Conservation Section at (415) 923-2571.

## CITY HALL DOCENT

The San Francisco City Hall Docent Tour Program is always looking to recruit new docents for an hour or more. Have you ever found yourself with nothing to do? Do you love history, arts, public speaking and meeting new people? Are you open to learning something different and new? If yes to all of the above, then we'd love to have you join us. For more information on the Docent Tour Program call (415) 554-5780.

Orientation/Training: Every Thursday in March at 11:00 AM or 6:00 PM

One-hour sessions located in City Hall Room 499

## CITYWIDE ELECTRICITY PLAN

## DRAFT REVIEW MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The Department of the Environment and Public Utilities Commission are developing a long-term Electricity Resource Plan for the City. The public involvement is critical to shaping this plan, and the City will be hosting meetings to solicit input. Public meetings in November gathered input on goals and objectives for the Plan, including developing renewable energy, energy efficiency, maintaining reliability, fair rates, clean environment, environmental justice, and local control over energy resources. This present series of meetings is intended to review the Draft Electricity Resource Plan developed by the Department of Environment and the Public Utilities Commission.

Three community meetings will be held:

- Tuesday, March 19, 2002 from 6:00p.m.- 8:00p.m. @ Grace Cathedral (Gresham Hall), 1100 California St. @ Taylor
- Wednesday, March 20, 2002 from 6:00p.m.- 8:00p.m. @ Ingleside Police Station (Community Room), 1 Jon Young Lane @ San Jose Ave.
- Saturday, March 23, 2002 from 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. @ Bayview Hunters Point Multipurpose Senior Center, 1706 Yosemite Ave @ Third St.

San Francisco faces many energy challenges. The Electricity Resource Plan will consider these issues, and present various electricity mix scenarios. For more information, please contact Lotta Sweet, Public Outreach Associate at lotta\_sweet@clif.sfc.us or call (415) 355-3754.

## REQUEST FOR BIDS

SFPUCC seeks both prime and sub-level contractors to bid on Construction Contract No. WD-2387 LOMBARD STREET RESERVOIR.

The work includes demolishing the existing reservoir, constructing a new reinforced concrete reservoir, constructing athletic courts and other related work. The Engineer's estimate for this project is \$11,460,000.

Interested parties should attend a pre-bid conference and a site visit. Please call James Sakai at (415) 554-7044 for information.

A Class "A" California Contractors License is required to bid. Plans, specifications and bidding documents are available at 1155 Market St., 7th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103, in Room 700, at no cost. Call (415) 554-3497 for assistance.

Sealed bids are due at 2:00 P.M. on April 4, 2002.

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255066

The following person(s) are doing business as: D'Jon Notes And Cash Flows, 491 Marietta Drive, San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Jon Wing. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca on 02/11/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255154

The following person(s) are doing business as: Texture, 114 Eureka Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Bethany M. Clark. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 13, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/13/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.254900

The following person(s) are doing business as: Foodsavercentral, 568 Howard Street 3rd Floor, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Dolores Silva VP Finance and Admin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 28, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/05/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255239

The following person(s) are doing business as: Squat & Gobble Cafe #2, 1428 Haight Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gillian Sophie Ellenby. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 5, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/05/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.254890

The following person(s) are doing business as: New Spaces, 743 Tehama Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gillian Sophie Ellenby. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 5, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/05/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255238

The following person(s) are doing business as: Squat & Gobble #1, 237 Fillmore Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Isa J. Swedien Squat & Gobble Cafe, LLC. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/15/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255239

The following person(s) are doing business as: Benfield Works, 899 Fulton Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117-1709. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mario Antonio Benfield. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 19, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/19/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255237

The following person(s) are doing business as: AcroSports, AcroSports Physical, Performance and Circus Arts, City Circus, Acro Sports, 639 Frederick Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Dorothy Huntington, E.D. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 24, 1992. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/19/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255227

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sense Of Place Design, 733 Frederick Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Julia Carpenter. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 19, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/19/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255226

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tali Collection, 3428 Balboa Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Lily G. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/21/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255225

The following person(s) are doing business as: Frank Guerra Medina for change of Name. The application of Frank Guerra Medina for change of Name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Frank Guerra Medina has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to -Frank Guerra Medina, Allen Bunnys Phethsay, for change of Name. The application of Intava Anna Phethsay, Allen Bunnys Phethsay for change of Name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Intava Anna Phethsay has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to -Intava Anna Wong, Allen Bunnys Wong. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 29th day of April at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255224

The following person(s) are doing business as: USA Pallets, 1160-1A Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steve Blair Whitmer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/21/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255235

The following person(s) are doing business as: Botanica Yemaya, 1601-A Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255111

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Tiger, 2193 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255112

The following person(s) are doing business as: Botanica Yemaya, 1601-A Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255113

The following person(s) are doing business as: Beatinik Bags, 2948 20th Street #100, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Louise J. Bartlett. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255153

The following person(s) are doing business as: Botanica Yemaya, 1601-A Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steve Blair Whitmer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255154

The following person(s) are doing business as: USA Pallets, 1160-1A Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steve Blair Whitmer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255155

The following person(s) are doing business as: USA Pallets, 1160-1A Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steve Blair Whitmer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255156

The following person(s) are doing business as: Yummy Express, 683 Geary Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yu-Mez Han. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/12/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255157

The following person(s) are doing business as: Yummy Express, 683 Geary Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yu-Mez Han. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/12/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255158

The following person(s) are doing business as: Yummy Express, 683 Geary Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yu-Mez Han. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/12/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255159

The following person(s) are doing business as: Botanica Yemaya, 1601-A Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steve Blair Whitmer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/12/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255160

The following person(s) are doing business as: Botanica Yemaya, 1601-A Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steve Blair Whitmer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/12/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255161

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Tiger, 2193 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255162

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Tiger, 2193 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255163

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Tiger, 2193 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255164

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Tiger, 2193 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255165

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Tiger, 2193 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255166

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Tiger, 2193 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255167

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Tiger, 2193 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255168

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Tiger, 2193 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

FEB. 21, 28, MAR. 7, 14, 21, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255169

The following person(s) are doing business as: Red Tiger, 2193 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Xua Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/04/2002.

## CLASSIFIEDS

## LEGAL NOTICES

## STATEMENT FILE NO.254667

The following person(s) are doing business as: Secret River, Secretriver, 703 Webster Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Ronald B. Dennis and Richard L. Dennis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 15, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/29/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255578

The following person(s) are doing business as: Moran- Lighting & Electric, 1139 Cole Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Timothy John Moran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 30, 1990. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/27/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255599

The following person(s) are doing business as: Zebzen, 210 Fell Street, #7, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Vidakovic Zeljko and Felic Senjad. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 28, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/28/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255646

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Real Food Company, Fresh Organics, 1001 & 1023 Stanyan Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Timothy W. Hinrichs, VP. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/01/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255645

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Real Food Company, Fresh Organics, 3939 24th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Timothy W. Hinrichs, VP. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/01/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255037

The following person(s) are doing business as: FTM International, Inc. 160- 14th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joel Levine, Treasurer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 7, 1997. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/02/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.02-540166**  
In the Matter of the Application of Jeffrey Tar Gonza, for Change of Name. The application of Jeffrey Tar Gonza for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jeffrey Tar Gonza has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Claude Milano. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 2nd day of May at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255704

The following person(s) are doing business as: Tina's Laundromat, 636 Cherry Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Patrick Sahagun. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on February 11, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/08/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255461

The following person(s) are doing business as: SF Skincare, 2000 Van Ness Avenue Ste 509, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Sharl Spakes, manager. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on November 16, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/25/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255788

The following person(s) are doing business as: Utopia Catering, 947 Geary Street Apt. #11 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Michael Adams. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/06/2002.

MAR. 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002

## STATEMENT FILE NO.255820

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kamei Household Wares, 606 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Quyen To Huynh. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/07/2002.

MAR. 14, 21, 28, APR 4, 2002

## STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO. 203310

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Kamei Restaurant Supply. Located at: 507 Clement Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 3/22/1996.

This business was conducted by a individual: Quyen To Huynh.

MAR 14, 21, 28, APR 4, 2002

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E12

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E12

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E12

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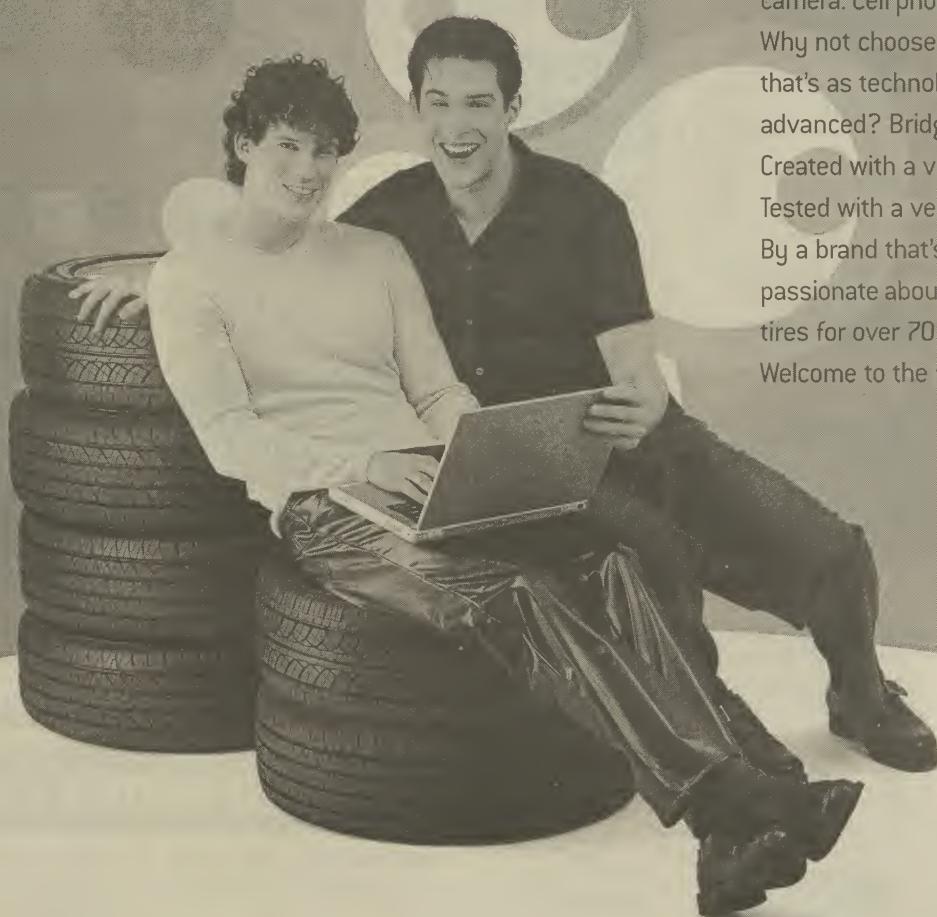
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**A history of gay lib, in so many words**

'Come Out Fighting: A Century of Essential Writing on Gay Liberation.'

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**Blonde ambition**

Janet Leigh appears in 'Cool Hollywood Blondes.'

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**Women in a groove**

Marilyn Crispell and 'Jazz Women' at SFJazz.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 32 • No. 11 • 14 March 2002

## A TV-movie named Matthew Shepard



Brooke Palmer

Shane Meier as Matthew Shepard with Stockard Channing as his mother Judy Shepard in *The Matthew Shepard Story*

NBC's compelling  
'The Matthew  
Shepard Story' airs  
on Saturday night  
by David Lamble

**T**he scene opens with the shot of a pickup truck, as if observed by a low-flying bat. A body is tossed from the truck, and two shadowy figures pounce on it as an owl might seize a field mouse or a small rabbit. Two voices are heard — young, exuberant voices that feel no pain — "Take off his shoes! Come on!" There is a flash of steel as a long, phallic object, a gun, is pulled out of a pair of jeans. Twenty-two seconds into the scene, there is finally a clear shot of the body of a small, almost preppy-looking man, or is it a boy, hands bound behind his back, around a brown wooden fence. His longish dirty-blond hair and clean white T-shirt contrast sharply against a background dominated by earth tones.

The young, exuberant voices become animal noises, the shadowy figures acquire faces: boyish, clean cut, several notches short of handsome, but wholesome and rugged enough for a beer commercial. Lit by the lights from the pickup, the scene unfolds dreamlike. The fence acts like the ropes in a boxing ring, the boyish man whips the gun across the face of the man-boy, whose

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## Philip Hitchcock exposed

### Bodycasting the heroic figure in steel

by Adam Sandel

**C**ontroversial, erotic, disturbing, profound: all of these words have been used to describe the work of Philip Hitchcock, the prolific artist and sculptor whose work combines homo-eroticism, fantasy, bondage and religiosity, with startling results.

Best-known for his sculptures that combine live body-casting with highly stylized artistic flourishes, Hitchcock was named one of the "Out 100" by *Oui* magazine, as one of 100 gay men and women in America who have distinguished themselves in their fields.

The Venice, California-based artist will be in San Francisco to demonstrate his "life-casting" technique and sign copies of his book *Dark Impressions* at A Different Light Bookstore on Thursday, March 21. He will also lead a four-hour life-casting workshop at the Learning Annex on Saturday, March 23.

In a recent conversation, Hitchcock shared some insights into his creative process, and explored some of the persistent misunderstandings about his work.

Adam Sandel: When did you create the first work

that you considered erotic?

Philip Hitchcock: I wasn't really free to explore that side of myself until I came out in the mid-'80s. After dealing with a lot of my own personal issues, I really got serious about my art in 1988. You don't set out to create something erotic, you just follow your own internal lead.

What makes a work of art erotic?

Perception. A work is erotic if it's exciting, accessible, and hits you in the gut first. I like to say that I use the body as a metaphor, "wink, wink," but if it triggers a connection that speaks to someone's sensuality, then it's erotic.

Many of your works are of muscled, chiseled, gym-built bodies. Is that the type of man you're most attracted to?

Someone used the term "body fascist" to describe me because I use images that are thought to exclude many types of bodies. A lot of my work is about getting in touch with a sense of the heroic, so I choose bodies that are physically heroic. In terms of the ideal image, I find those bodies very exciting, but I wouldn't choose a partner the way I choose my models.

Where do you find your models?

The best source is word of mouth, through people who are familiar with my work. If I were to go up to a stranger and say, "You have a great body,"

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*Footsoldier,*  
1997,  
by Philip  
Hitchcock

## OUT THERE

**by Roberto Friedman,  
Adrian Roberts,  
and Oscar Weary**

**B**oy, do we hope *Instant Karma* comes to pay a visit with revisionist hack director **Ron Howard** and his so-called biopic *A Beautiful Mind* at the Oscars later this month. The film, **Howard**, and bloated ego **Russell Crowe** are all up in their respective categories, but with any poetic justice at all, **Crowe** and *Beautiful Grind* will meet the same fate as **Denzel Washington** and the similarly revisionist *The Hurricane* two years ago, and get shut out, while **Washington** takes Oscar home for, of all films, *Training Day*.

By now, the film's erasure of all traces of math genius **John Nash**'s bisexuality is old news; also erased is any mention of Nash's illegitimate son; and of his anti-Semitic ravings when schizophrenic paranoia closed in on him. Meanwhile, publicists for Universal Pictures have been working overtime to peddle their product, with the film tied into *Newsweek*'s schizophrenia cover package last week; **Crowe**'s smug mug on the cover of the reissued paperback of *Sylvia Nasar's*

honest and unexpurgated bio, which gives the impostor film its name; and even a story in *The New Yorker's* Talk of the Town section all about the frigging hand model used in the close-ups of hands on blackboards! *Donnez us a break!*

Dear Oscar goddess, Please let Denzel win. And if you're a vengeful god, and Russ the Truss is anointed Best Actor, and he proceeds to read a poem, please let someone in the front row be packing a stun gun. In **Crowe**'s words, "Who on earth had the fucking audacity to take out the Best Actor's poem?" We volunteer with the snippers.

**Happy campers**

In *Happiness*, performance artist **Laurie Anderson**'s solo concerts at Zellerbach Hall last weekend, she recounted her experiences working undercover as a "cultural spy" at a New York City McDonald's, and volunteering on an Amish farm. The apprenticeships were the opposite of what you'd expect: at McDonald's, she found camaraderie and job satisfaction, while among the Amish she found bitterness and dysfunction.

Her burbling keyboards and electronic violin were haunting



Laurie Anderson: fries with that?



Lou Harrison: Caesar salad

peace and love"; and, accompanied on piano by his mom, folksinger **Kate McGarrigle**, let loose with a knockout cover of what else but "Over the Rainbow."

**Feminist triple-threat**

So what were all those cute baby dykes and adorable indie boys in glasses doing hanging out in the Tenderloin on a Sunday evening? Why, they were attending one of the best queer music triple-bills to hit this town in a long-ass time: feminist new-wavers **Le Tigre**, art-damaged Euro grrrls **Chicks On Speed**, and the godmothers of dyke punk, San Francisco's very own **Tribe 8**.



Le Tigre: Feminist new wave punks

won't produce his opera *Young Caesar* this year after all. "I got a nice call, blaming 9-11," Harrison said. "The work, which is very old, has been rewritten, and it will be performed. People find the gay content controversial, like I'm meddling with history, but it's all there in *Suetonius*!" Er, all right there in *who-tonius*?

Nice to be able to say that some of the area's musical treasures are still being produced. This coming Tuesday night, March 19, SF chanteuse **Veronica Klaus** brings back her horn sec-



Veronica Klaus: military brass

Yes, the young feminist intelligentsia were out in force at these two exceedingly sold-out shows at the Great American Music Hall, and as **Le Tigre's Johanna Fateman** kept pointing out, the crowd was "really beautiful." Lead howler **Kathleen Hanna** has lightened up her in-your-face politics considerably since her acerbic days with seminal early-'90s riot grrrl band **Bikini Kill**. Her feminist message is still the same, but the difference is all in the delivery. **Le Tigre** has a sense of humor and, best of all, drum machine dance beats. After all, wasn't it some fag who once said, "If I can't dance, it's not my revolution?" **Le Tigre** takes that to heart.

And so do **Chicks On Speed**, the Munich-based multimedia trio who wowed the crowd with booming electro beats, video projections, handmade paper dresses, and the craziest dancing of the evening. Their ironic, tongue-in-cheek house anthem, "Glamour Girl," deserves to be blasting at every gay nightclub in the country.

Considering the heavily programmed, electronic element of these two acts, **Tribe 8** opened the show in the most old-school way possible: live instruments! But as they sang on the opening number: "Old school, new school, I didn't... go to school!" It's been a while since we've seen these dyke rockers, but they've lost none of their power or intensity. Their new rhythm section is, as they say, "hellu tight," and the new songs showcase an emerging songcraft. They topped off their set by paying tribute to **Bikini Kill**, performing "Rebel Girl" with dyke-centric lyrics.

Shout-outs happened throughout the evening, with **Le Tigre** name-dropping just about every feminist icon from the past century, and all three bands acknowledging **Outpunk**, the pioneering queer punk 'zine that was published in the early '90s by **Matt Wobensmith**, who was seen at the show.

And we here at Out There feel obligated to do a shout-out of our own to **Tribe 8's Lynn Breedlove**, who not only got us into this sold-out show, but then proceeded to drag us up on stage so we could beat her with her lamb-skin flogger — bringing new meaning to the words "press privilege."

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FROM THE CREATORS OF TAXICAB CONFESSIONS

**"A FASCINATING JOURNEY... IN BOTH POIGNANT MOMENTS AND HUMOROUS, IT IS UTTERLY COMPELLING."**  
-Elizabeth Einstein, ESQUIRE

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tion for a night of blues and jazz at Cafe DuNord, 2170 Market St. Klaus calls her big-band gig *At Ease*, a soul cabaret for trying times, and someone seems sure to describe it as brassy. Showtime 9 p.m.; cover is \$7.

Prize for the week's best high-profile gig for an openly gay musician goes to young whipper-snapper singer-songwriter **Rufus Wainwright**, who gave two spirited concerts at the Fillmore last weekend. Sunday night, Rufus was flirty, queeny, and in great voice. He sang "One-Man Guy," which his dad, Canadian folksinger **Loudon Wainwright III**, wrote for him; covered **John Lennon's** "Across the Universe," which he noted was "written at a time when they still sang about



Rufus Wainwright: rainbow love

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## THEATRE

# Jocks behind closed doors

## Hot Pants Homo's 'Lavender Lockerroom'

by Richard Dodds

**L**avender Lockerroom is a very funny comedy, a burlesque that still recognizably encapsulates the tribulations of an incipiently gay teenager. Vern is the kind of kid who's last to realize he's gay. But in this story, the outcast also gets his fantasy: Three star school jocks invite him to join their secret club. And then they initiate him.

We sort of see it, in the clothed pantomime of a hot orgy. But what gives the piece its zing — both comically and a bit sexually — is how the visuals play off the hyper-lurid narration spoken by the characters around their own dialogue.

As if torn from the pages of a gay pulp novel of yore, someone dropping trousers is heard as, "Vern's pants became soft manacles around his ankles." Or consider, "Vern knelt before the flesh totem." Or, "The injection of Bob's massive member was not rebuked."

*Lavender Lockerroom* is the third installment in a series of pulp parodies by the Hot Pants Homo Players. *Hot Pants Homo* was also the name of their first show, and both it and *Senator Swish* had happy runs at the late Josie's Cabaret. The new show is in Theatre Rhino's Studio, and this troupe's skillful ways work even better in a theatrical setting.

As broad as these comedies have been, they contain both subtlety and rampant imagination that really shine this time out. The cast of seven, who start at good

Members of the *Lockerroom* cast create harmonious hilarity at Rhino.

and work up from there, seem very much in tune with what writer-director F. Allen Sawyer has provided. Call it harmonious hilarity.

It's unlikely that anyone else could play Vern as well as David Bicha. This is the tour-de-force role, and Bicha succeeds because his comically confused pansy is rooted in a very passionate character. Drew Todd is also in top form playing one of the aforementioned football stars as well as Vern's first sexual buddy, a BMOC who is seriously in the closet.

Trauma Flintstone rings in with three choice characters, including a happy homemaker, a football tough, and a guy looking for blowjobs in a drive-in movie restroom. Sandra Schlechter also hits it right with two disparate characters, Vern's frustrated girl-

friend and Vern's gruff cane-wielding father. Deena Davenport gets to play the show's bad girls, and she does so with relish. Isaac Brantner has considerable appeal as Vern's No. 1 fantasy figure, and then gets a funny cameo moment when he twists his face into a lumpy college girl.

*Lavender Lockerroom* probably reflects, at least to one degree or another, the experiences of most everyone who winds up gay. It must be those flashes of shared reality that so enliven the humor in this show. Whatever it is, go have some fun and see it. ▼

*Lavender Lockerroom* will run through March 31 in Theatre Rhino's Studio. Tickets are \$15 & \$18. Call 861-5079.

Kent Taylor

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# Taxi-cab confessions

## 'Jitney' inspires at the Curran Theatre

by Richard Dodds

**I**t probably speaks badly of me, but I usually anticipate an August Wilson play with the smallest kernel of dread. And usually that anticipation is agreeably up-ended. That's the case with *Jitney*, now at the Curran in a sharp production.

But why this renewing resistance, however mild, to a Wilson play? Well, his plays are usually long, seldom welcome news to a professional theatergoer arriving at the theater. *Jitney* is indeed long, nearly two hours and 45 minutes, but the play is good enough, and the actors excellent enough, to keep your eyes on the stage rather than on your wristwatch.

No, there must be something else. Could it be a skewed notion that a play populated with black characters must somehow be medicinal for a white theatergoer? Wilson fuels this impression with his outspoken, uncompromising, and somewhat scolding tone in interviews. Yet, in many of his plays, the characters exist in self-contained worlds where black-and-white issues are but a distant given.

The characters of *Jitney* barely acknowledge the white power structure beyond their immediate world, and when one of the characters lightly blames some of his woes on the white man, he is

Roger Robinson and Keith Randolph Smith are father and son in *Jitney*.

Chris Benzon

promptly rebuked for failing to take responsibility for his own condition. Wilson shows that the African-American experience does not have to be always overtly defined only in reaction to a historically racist society. Ironically, this tacit exclusion actually promotes inclusion.

Maybe that's why Wilson is one of the few contemporary American playwrights, let alone black American playwrights, whose name can pretty much assure a Broadway production. Since 1985, seven Wilson plays (including the Pulitzer Prize-win-

ning *Fences* and *The Piano Lesson*) have bucked the odds against serious new works finding a home on Broadway.

### Trunk show

*Jitney* is the play that convinced Wilson that he had a future as a playwright. Written in 10 days in 1979, and produced once in Pittsburgh, Wilson pulled it from his trunk and reworked it for a 1996 production on which the current Best of Broadway attraction is based. Even with the revisions, *Jitney* still shows signs

next page ►

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# The blonde in the shower

## Actress Janet Leigh onstage at the Geary

by Tavo Amador

**J**anet Leigh received an MGM contract almost by accident, and survived casting as an ingenue and leading lady in forgettable costume pictures before attaining artistic recognition and immortality under the direction of Orson Welles and Alfred Hitchcock. She is appearing in person at San Francisco's Geary Theater on Monday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m., where she will be interviewed by Chronicle columnist Ruthe Stein as part of the American Conservatory Theater's *Cool Hollywood Blondes* series.

She was born Jeanette Helen Morrison (1927) in Merced, California. In 1946, her mother was working as a receptionist at a ski resort and kept a photograph of the pretty teenager on her desk. The picture caught the attention of retired MGM star Norma Shearer, who sent it and a note to her old studio, recommending they give the youngster a screen test. The studio liked the results, and signed her. After some training, she debuted opposite Van Johnson in *The Romance of Rosey Ridge*, then wondered what to do if *Winter Comes* with Walter Pidgeon (both 1947). It cannot be said she made much of an impression, but her wholesomeness was appropriate for *The Hills of Home and Words and Music* (1948). She was certainly busy in 1949, as *That Forsyte*

Woman's (Greer Garson) niece and, along with June Allyson, Elizabeth Taylor and Margaret O'Brien, as one of the *Little Women*, a popular remake. The same cannot be said for *The Doctor and the Girl*, or her ballerina who becomes a nun (!) on *The Red Danube*, but she recovered on loan to RKO for *Holiday Affair* with Robert Mitchum. MGM made her *Strictly Dishonorable* before she faced an *Act of Violence*. Back at RKO, she starred in a forgettable musical, *Two Tickets to Broadway*, but at her home studio she discovered *It's a Big Country*, and had a hit with *Angels in the Outfield* (1951).

A teenage marriage had been annulled and a second ended in divorce, but in 1951 she married Tony Curtis. They became darlings of the fan magazines, although the publicity did not lead to better films: *Scaramouche*, *Just This Once*, and *Fearless Fagan*, all 1952. Next year she was *Walking My Baby Back Home*, but things briefly improved with *The Naked Spur*, a good Anthony Mann Western with James Stewart that captured her edgy sexiness. After she and Curtis were teamed for *Houdini*, she became *Confidentially Connie*. She was Princess Aleta to Curtis' Prince Valiant, a hit if not good, and loved Robert Taylor's *Rogue Cop*, before grabbing a wimble again for Curtis' *The Black Shield of Falworth*, ending 1954 by *Living It Up*. The popularity of her films with Curtis lead to better pictures in 1955:

### Thug alert

Then Welles cast her as Charlton Heston's wife in *Touch of Evil* (1958). She was superb being menaced by a butch Mercedes McCambridge and her gang of Tijuana thugs. She ended the year with Kirk Douglas and Curtis in the awful but successful *The Vikings*, and with Curtis in Paris enjoying *The Perfect Furlough*.

Hitchcock then offered Marion Crane in *Psycho* (1960), a supporting role that is central to the story. As the embezzling adulteress who obsesses Norman Bates (Anthony Perkins) and meets her grisly end in a shower, Leigh scored. The film was a smash, and her reviews excellent. She received a Best Supporting Oscar nomination, losing (inexplicably) to Shirley Jones in *Elmer Gantry*. Then it was back to leads in the poor *Who Was That Lady?* with Curtis and Dean Martin, then a cameo in the all-star flop *Pepe*. She got to play another quirky, edgy blonde, saving Frank Sinatra from insanity in John Frankenheimer's surreal *The Manchurian Candidate* (1962), and next year was top-billed in a smash musical, *Bye Bye Birdie*, donning a dark wig to play Chita Rivera's stage role. But the media and the

film focused more on her younger co-star, Ann-Margret. Also in 1963, she was one of the *Wives and Lovers*, an uninspired comedy with Johnson. She was stuck in *Kid Rodelo* (1965), before playing Paul Newman's angry, wary wife in *Harper* (1966), a fine performance in her last good movie.

She had three more films that year, all wasting her: *Three on a Couch* with Jerry Lewis, *An American Dream*, and *The Spy in the Green Hat*. In 1968, she was in Italy for *Grand Slam*, then sank in a lame comedy about a submarine, *Hello Down There* (1969). Three years later she learned *One Is a Lonely Number* then starred in the cheesy science fiction *Night of the Lepus*, and was off the big screen until 1979, when she strolled along the *Boardwalk*, then was frightened in John Carpenter's *The Fog* (1980), her last movie for 18 years, until *Hal-*

*loween Twenty Years Later*.

Starting in the late '60s, she worked steadily on television, notably in *The House on Greenapple Road* (1970), as *Columbo's Forgotten Lady* (1975), on tributes to Welles, Hitchcock, and Lemmon, and most recently, discovering a *Fate Totally Worse than Death* (2000). She divorced Curtis in 1962. They had two daughters, Jamie Lee Curtis and Kelly Curtis. The former has had a career not unlike her mother's, her talents rarely used in good films. Leigh herself seems to have no professional regrets, having been part of the historic studio system, survived its collapse, and relished the opportunities that came her way. She discusses her career with humor, candor, and a refreshing lack of bitterness, and remains ready to work again. Fans can only hope today's Hollywood is paying attention. ▼



Janet Leigh as Marion Crane in Hitchcock's *Psycho* (1960)

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## Jitney

◀ previous page

of being an early work, with uneven passages and an ending of predictable sentimentality.

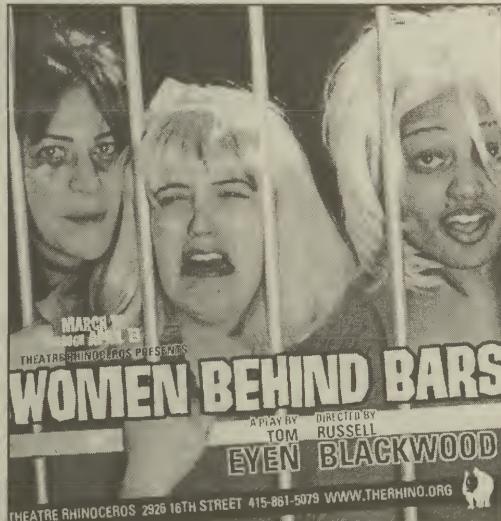
Yet much of what distinguishes the best of Wilson, including an unequaled vernacular eloquence, is also apparent in *Jitney*. Set in the office of a gypsy cab company in a Pittsburgh neighborhood marked for an urban-renewal project, the play leisurely sets up the revealing dynamics of this societal microcosm of the 1970s. It is a slice-of-life study punctuated by events of huge emotional import, led by the explosive reunion of a father and his ex-convict son.

Roger Robinson and Keith Randolph Smith are excellent as the unforgiving father and his proud son, but so, too, are the rest of the cast, including Anthony

Chisholm as a spryly alcoholic hack, Russell Andrews as an antisocial young driver, Yvette Ganier as his no-nonsense girlfriend, Stephen McKinley Henderson as the office gossip, and Barry Shabaka Henley as a gentle voice of wounded reason. Marion McClinton's direction is keenly observant throughout.

*Jitney* is part of Wilson's epic series of plays documenting a piece of the African-American experience in each decade of the 20th century. The playwright has two more decades to visit, and that kernel of dread may finally be erased. I am looking forward to these future Wilson plays about the past, especially if they are produced with the quality of *Jitney*. ▼

*Jitney* will run at the Curran Theatre through March 31. Tickets are \$34-\$59. Call 512-7770.



## MUSIC &amp; THEATRE

# Not for men only

## Marilyn Crispell and 'Jazz Women' to shine in SFJazz spring season

by Will Shank

In a perfect world, there would be no need for a Women's History Month or a week-long program titled *Jazz Women*, any more than there is a perceived need for a program called *Jazz Men*. But in the imperfect world that we live in, the fact is that women are enormously outnumbered in the male-dominated world of instrumental jazz performers. The ever-expanding San Francisco Jazz Festival, as part of its spring season, has invited such luminaries as bandleader Maria Schneider, saxophonist Jane Ira Bloom, and activist Angela Davis to participate in *Jazz Women*, with venues all over town between March 19 and 24. The dulcet voice of Cassandra Wilson will resonate through the Masonic Auditorium hall on Saturday evening March 23.

I spoke with composer-pianist Marilyn Crispell by phone before she left her Woodstock, New York home to come to San Francisco for her SFJazz debut this month. She appears at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater at 8 p.m. next Thursday, March 21.

Crispell has pulled off the remarkable coup of attracting improvising bassist Gary Peacock into her eponymous trio (Peacock collaborated with Keith Jarrett and Jack DeJohnette in the past two SFJazz fests.) The third member is jazz legend Paul Motian on drums. This month's performance at Yerba Buena will reflect recently recorded material, much of which was improvised, from the trio's recent *Amaryllis* CD on the German label ECM. The trio has not performed together since the time of the recording.

How do you recreate improvised music once it has been recorded and gone "on record," so to speak? "There is an attitude that we shouldn't try to recreate it," Crispell told me. "But in actuality, I wrote down the melody of that piece [*Amaryllis*, the title track], so it's now become a *bona fide* composition." Is that unusual? "It tends to happen. We play some concerts, and patterns start to emerge that at some point gel into some kind of composition."

### Fine and mellow

Trained as a classical musician at the Peabody and New England conservatories, Crispell, who is in her early fifties, came to jazz only in the mid-1970s, inspired by the music of John Coltrane and Cecil Taylor. Her earlier, energetic, almost frantic manipulation of the keyboard has given way recently to the remarkably mellow sound of "free ballads," as she calls them, in both *Amaryllis* and the Marilyn Crispell Trio's previous ECM recording, *Nothing Ever Was, Anywhere*.

Given her enormous success in a male-dominated field, she appears unfazed by the odds that were stacked against her. "Historically, it was largely a man's arena, but there have always been women in jazz. In contemporary improvised music, at the more avant-garde end, there have been more women, especially in Europe."

Still, the mostly-male statistics persist. "When I tell people I'm a jazz musician, they say, 'Do you sing?' And I say, 'Only in the shower and my car.' Part of my take on the whole thing — and I'm very big on not blaming

somebody else — is that a situation could exist historically, but I think it's important to see how you might be contributing to it. Instead of being a victim, move beyond that and do what you feel called to do." In Crispell's case, the calling was extremely strong. "It never for one second occurred to me not to do it. Just do it! Don't be motivated by the fear that you won't succeed, or that there's no place for you [in the profession]. If you do something with love and conviction, it will get across."

What advice would she give to young women who are just starting out under circumstances sim-

ilar to those in which she found herself several decades ago? "If you don't feel that you have to play this music or die, don't even get into it." Crispell's strong words stand out in vivid contrast to her soft-spoken style.

Is she aware of any active prejudice against her as a female composer and performer in the jazz world? "Especially at the beginning, I was unaware of adverse circumstances, and as I've gone along, I've become aware of adversity, but I've felt nothing but the greatest respect and acceptance from musicians and audiences. I've been told of one or two

circumstances [of prejudice] because I was a woman or because I was white, but I've never experienced it personally. There will always be ethnic and cultural differences, but so what? It's just a fact of life. It's important to rise above that. I think it's important to concentrate, especially now, on the things that tie us together, rather than those that keep us apart." ▼

For more information about *Jazz Women* and the rest of the SFJazz Festival, call (415) 776-1999, visit their store at Embarcadero Center Three, or go to their website, [www.sfjazz.org](http://www.sfjazz.org).



Crispell: important to rise above

Corrie Borris, Steve Rhyne in NCTC's unadorned production of *Passion*

# Love obsession

## Sondheim's 'Passion'

by Richard Dodds

**P**assion is a musical that actually shuns applause. There is not a single opening in which to sneak a clap or two, as songs and dialogue meld together without pause. Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine must have felt that any interruption could dispel the mood of their somber study of obsessional love.

Actually, "songs" is not the right word to describe what Sondheim has provided. While two or three musical passages actually suggest beginning, middle, and end, much of what is sung is dialogue set to freer-form music. The show is really more a modern chamber piece than a Broadway musical. While *Passion* can be musically complex, the piece itself takes a streamlined approach to its story and doesn't require a big production. As such, it's a reasonable choice for New Conservatory Theatre Center's *In Concert* series of unadorned stagings of lesser-seen musicals.

The production, under George Quick's direction, provides a clear impression of what *Passion* has to offer. Musically, though, *Passion* pushes the boundaries of what

the cast can deliver. The cast acquits itself, but there isn't a lot of vocal wiggle room in some cases.

*Passion* tells the story of an emotionally raw and physically fragile young woman who nevertheless has the strength to up-end the life of a handsome and confident soldier. It is Italy in 1863, where the ailing Fosca sets out on an unrelenting campaign based on unconditional love. She winds up with her soldier.

Michelle Starr is this production's admirable Fosca, and there is a bold passion in her interactions with Steve Rhyne's well-considered Giorgio. Corrie Borris effectively handles the role of Giorgio's sexy mistress back home.

The other players, highlighted by John-Elliott Kirk and Alvin Taylor, do well, too. And musical director Dave Dobrusky creates a filled-out sound at an electric keyboard. Whatever its flaws, *Passion* is a significant work from the unquestioned genius of contemporary musical theater. This production helps demonstrate why. ▼

**Passion** will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through March 31. Tickets are \$15-\$25. Call 861-8972.

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# Suburban terrorism

'How To Kill Your Neighbor's Dog'

Given the state of the times that we live in, writer/director Michael Kalesnikoff feels obliged to append this disclaimer to the production notes for his incisive and very funny satire, *How To Kill Your Neighbor's Dog*: "The title is meant ironically. If someone is coming to my film in the hopes of actually learning how to kill their neighbor's dog, they'll be very disappointed." The original title for this collection of acerbic and delightfully cynical rants by Kenneth Branagh (*Hamlet*, *Peter's Friends*), as a British playwright-in-exile in LA, was *How To Kill Your Neighbor's Dog And Other Acts of Suburban Terrorism*.

Branagh is a linear descendant to Monty Python's Sheridan Whiteside in *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (also starring Bette Davis), as a housebound theatre critic who terrorizes a prim and proper Ohio couple. Branagh's Peter Gowen hijacks an early-morning TV chat show, *LA/AM*, spewing forth his amusing if self-absorbed perceptions about the sorry state of American culture.

Branagh's Peter feels as put-upon as Job. His annoying if amusingly gay theatre director, Brian (the vivacious David Krumholtz, who pulled off a similar show-stopping stunt singing Sinatra in his BVDs in *Slums of Beverly Hills*), insists on using the rehearsal time for Peter's new play to karaoke Petula Clark songs. No one in the play (about a troubled child) thinks that Peter has any feel for writing an authentic stage kid. His wife Melanie (Robin Wright Penn, star of *She's So Lovely*) is bugging Peter to create a real child with her. Peter has a frustratingly odd intimate relationship with Melanie's Alzheimer's-challenged mother Edna (Lynn

Artistic License Films

Kenneth Branagh, Robin Wright Penn in *Neighbor's Dog*

Redgrave, who gives a performance as eccentric as her turn as James Whale's overprotective and batty housekeeper in *Gods and Monsters*), who mostly fails to remember who he is, and who gets lost on her way to the dining room, but who can suddenly have touchingly lucid moments when she reflects on death and the meaning of life. A disgruntled tramp, False Peter (Jared Harris, the lecherous thieving Russian cab driver in *Happiness*), has taken to roaming the neighborhood assuming Peter's name, and eventually engaging Peter in drunken philosophical debates. And finally, the Armenian neighbors' white mongrel spends his last nights barking his way through Peter's dreams.

Branagh is at the top of his game — you'd think he'd written the piece himself. At times, he's like an especially witty Martian archeologist sifting through the ruins of his own life, playing off the bits of mad whimsy. The sup-

porting characters have a surreal intensity about them without turning into grotesques or ghouls. The film resembles in tone and style the mid-'80s quirky Scottish comedies of director Bill Forsyth, especially his 1984 classic *Comfort and Joy*, where a DJ (Bill Patterson) fills the hole in his love life by refereeing a Mafia ice-cream war. Branagh's Peter fills his hole by finding an unexpected pal in his neighbor, 10-year-old Amy (Suzy Hofrichter). While he initially befriends Amy as a theatrical guinea pig to model his play's child after, a genuine but never sappy or mushy chemistry grows between man and girl. The gay director, the loquacious tramp and the bratty little girl all grow on you without becoming cute or cuddly. In the end, only the mutt must die for their sins. ▼

**How To Kill Your Neighbor's Dog** is now playing in Bay Area theatres.

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## Out There

◀ page 26

### Family values

How far will putative celebrity Lorna Luft go to avoid the upcoming mega-nuptials of her sister, **Liza Minnelli**? Well, our roving reporter **Robert Julian** spotted Luft atop a float at last week's gay/lesbian Mardi Gras in Sydney, Australia. She was accompanied on the oversized truckbed by a plethora of drag queens doing everything from mama **Judy as Dorothy** to Liza in *Cabaret*. But the *piece de resistance* was the 40 men and women who followed Luft's float, all dressed in the top hat, tuxedo jacket, and black pumps Judy wore for the "Get Happy" number in MGM's *Summer Stock*. Wedding? What wedding?

### Close encounters

We've been thumbing through our copy of *Afterwords, Real Sex from Gay Men's Diaries* (Alyson), which arrived thoughtfully annotated by editor **Kevin Bentley**. There's something of a hometown presence in the book, including entries from late BAR columnist **Mike Hippner**, live BAR sports columnist **Jim Provenzano**, and Bentley's own lively reports of experiences with BAR's useful marriage and relationships ads.

SF author **David May**'s account of an encounter with late *Chron* reporter **Randy Shilts** got a big audience response at the book's reading at A Different Light last month. The February 28, 1981 entry: "I met Randy Shilts a week ago at the Brig,

"Shilts: 'How're you doing tonight?'

"Me: 'Just fine.'

"Shilts: 'Just fine, huh?'

"Me: 'Yeah.'

"Shilts: 'Yeah? Children starving, social unrest and turmoil in the world, and you're just fine?'

"Me: 'Yeah. I was going to say how much I enjoyed your last article in *Christopher Street*. But fuck you, you arrogant son of a bitch.'

From Hippner's January 9, 1980 entry: "M. wasn't particularly exciting this time either, because I was so high and couldn't keep it up. Also, because we know each other too well now, and I just couldn't get all hot and bothered about it. How do you show your dick in a friend's face and say, 'Eat that big juicy cock, you asshole!?' It works sometimes, but not that night." We miss Mike.

### Tight fit

Just enough space for a few dispatches from "Road Test," our favorite feature in the latest *Pointe* magazine, in which members of *Ballet Florida* test-drive various brands of tights, then give feed-

Idael German and Dale Michael Rowse: more stretch for the bucks.

back on fit and comfort. We'll go right to the boys:

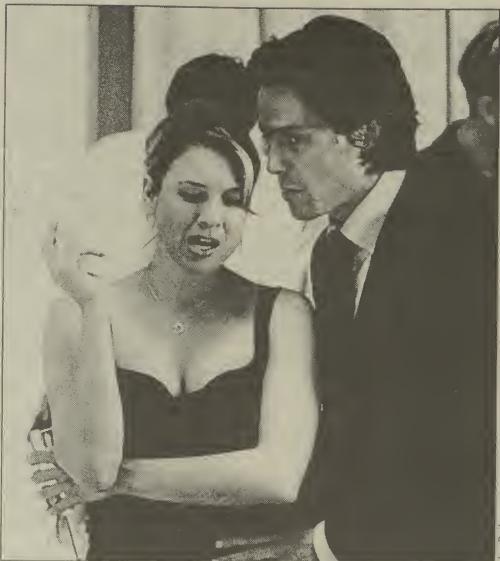
"The material really clings to my legs." — darkly handsome dancer **Idael German** on Danskin.

"I prefer lyrca tights like these. They have more stretch than the nylon ones." — dancer **Dale Michael Rowse**, a blonde, on Allen Bodywear. ▼

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Renee Zellweger and Hugh Grant in *Bridget Jones's Diary*

## Bimbos 4ever

by Will Shank

**C**urrent video releases of last year's theatrical features include an array of queer characters in supporting roles.

**Legally Blonde**  
Directed by Robert Luketic

Not even the perky presence of the usually compelling Reese Witherspoon (*Election*) can save this lame sitcom from sinking. Unlike its nearest cinematic relatives, *Working Girl* and *Clueless*, the screenplay for *Blonde* lacks a clear point of view, and the formulaic saga of the bimbo-versus-the-establishment flops because she's still a bimbo at the end.

The gay characters are all negative ones. One of the many caricatures of that mean old Ivy League world includes an antagonistic Harvard dyke. And an em-

barrassing courtroom scene that exposes a "straight" witness as a fag pulls out every stereotype in the book.

**Bridget Jones's Diary**  
Directed by Sharon Maguire

Renee Zellweger fares far better in the role of a loser determined to triumph. Her Bridget Jones is the most endearing plump English girl onscreen since Lynn Redgrave played the lumpy *Georgy Girl* 35 years ago. In this contemporary remake of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, Colin Firth once again plays Mr. Darcy, the haughty object of the leading lady's passion. Among Bridget's cheering section of London girlfriends is the ubiquitous gay boy, Tom, played campily by James Callis. It would be nice if Zellweger won the Oscar for such well-done comic fare.

### Rat Race

Directed by Jerry Zucker

If it's not quite Stanley Kramer's '60s classic *It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World*, this very funny chase film holds its own in the slapstick comedy genre. Director Zucker, who gave us the hysterical *Airplane* movies of the '80s, subsequently took some unwise turns in his career path (*First Knight*). With *Rat Race*, he has returned to what he does best. Some of the sight gags do not manage to stay afloat all the way to the punchline, including one in which a busload of Lucy Ricardo's on their way to a Lucy convention are hijacked by Cuba Gooding, Jr. But one of the movie's many laughs comes from the surprise revelation that not all of the Lucies are female. The director also kindly strips Gooding, and former TV Superman Dean Cain in a cameo, to the waist. ▼

## Matt Shepard

◀ Arts cover

starkly white countenance is shadowed in red. The final glimpse of the man-boy shows him hanging limply, lifelessly forward, held up only by the rope that binds him to the fence. Two minutes have now passed, time slowed down and speeded up to create an agonizingly long moment. Finally, the camera pulls back into the sky as if the bat were flying off. A whoop of delight is heard: "The shoes!" Fade to black.

My first reaction to this opening shot from NBC Television's *The Matthew Shepard Story* (debuting on hundreds of stations across the US and Canada this Saturday night, 9 p.m. PST) is that this is a real horror film, the kind of film I've always avoided watching before.

Thirty years ago, a very young Dustin Hoffman played a wimpy American college professor who is trapped in a small cottage near the sea in Cornwall, England, trapped by a gang of brutes who have already raped his wife and are asking what's he gonna do about it. In *Straw Dogs*, the wimp or the worm

turns and becomes director Sam Peckinpah's idea of a "real man," a man who will kill without pity or remorse, and be the better man for it. *Straw Dogs* became a kind of an obsession in reverse, a movie I would never stoop to watch. Thirty years later, I find myself talking by phone with the editor of *Straw Dogs*, a delightfully soft-spoken Canadian-born Englishman, Roger Spottiswoode, whose wildly eclectic body of work, as a director, spans *And the Band Played On* for HBO, *Tomorrow Never Dies* ("I'm proud I did a [James] Bond film with the least body count of all of them") and *Hiroshima* (a US/Japanese film detailing both sides of the A-bomb detonation). Now it includes *The Matthew Shepard Story*.

"The movie was written and produced with the full cooperation of Judy and Dennis Shepard, Matthew's parents, and for the most part concentrates on the 72 hours between the guilty verdict for Aaron McKinney, the young man who actually murdered Matthew, and the decision by the Shepards of whether or not to seek the death penalty for McKinney. Since the parents didn't witness

the crime, it's logical that it be shown in an almost surrealistically horrifying manner, like the nightmare you never awake from. Spottiswoode said, "I shot it in a way that was not quite literal, but was very brutal. I shot it at three frames per second, the camera so slowed down that the actual images are seen in a staccato way. I did something completely graphic that reminded me of when I was the editor of *Straw Dogs*, something that was too unpleasant to watch, because that was what was done to this boy."

"We go from this to the struggle of the parents first wanting retribution, to feeling that killing another person would not make the world a better place — that forgiveness, charity and generosity are the only way to respond to evil."

### Prairie boy

Before he was tapped to play next page ►



Shane Meier (Matthew) on top of Yani Gellman (Paolo)

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## Philip Hitchcock

◀ Arts cover

and I want to cover it with wet plaster, maybe your penis, too, and sculpt you," it sounds like a sexual come-on. I'm very clinical and detached when I work. Some models come in and try to eroticize the process, but mostly it's work.

What are some themes that you see recurring in your work?

The search for a hero, perseverance in the face of adversity. That's the real beauty of the human condition; how we get hit, knocked down, then stand up and keep going. There's also the metaphor of being stuck in a place, good or bad, and liking it. In my life, there have been times when I've been stuck. On the surface I've bitched and moaned about it, but after looking at it in some depth, I realized that on some level I enjoyed it.

In "Seated Male," a man is chained to a chair and gagged, but he's aroused. The images of bondage resonate with the leather community, but the shackles and restraints also reflect our internal struggles and bondage.

What have been some of the negative responses to your work?

When people say, "It's all about pretty bodies," they've missed the point. We're still a sexually repressed, Puritan culture, and people get jangly about images of an exposed male figure and genitals. Even in the gay culture, don't want to see how it's OK, but kind of naughty.

Artists have been depicting women in ecstasy for years, but when a woman is aroused, there's no outward appearance of it. When a man is aroused, you get an erection. And it's godly. There is God in sex, but people in American culture don't want to see how holy it is. It's easier to dismiss it.

We're a shame-based culture. For someone to invest in one of my pieces, they have to be comfortable about who they are, and with the responses of people who might see it. If you own artwork that you have to hide when your mother comes over, that's very unfortunate. It speaks to your



Sculptor Philip Hitchcock

own sense of shame.

Do you have a mission as an artist?

My mission is to normalize sex, intimacy and homosexuality in the arts, as I have in my life. I think that my work has dignity. Whether you like it or not, you have to honor it, because it has dignity.

### Fantasy island

One artist who recognizes the dignity in Hitchcock's work is

Tom Bianchi, whose photographs have become a cornerstone of male erotic art. In LA, Bianchi saw a sculpture that Hitchcock had cast of his friend Tim Smith, then made a visit to Hitchcock's studio.

"I'm always interested in other figurative artists and how they got to where they are," said Bianchi. "Working in Hollywood, Philip brings a costuming and fantasy element to his work. It's fine art meeting Hollywood fantasy."

"I like the fact that he plays with sexually edgy images. There's a spiritual-psychic base that we play out in sexual games that scares some people. They don't understand that it's possible to play with these issues in healthy ways," said Bianchi. "It's good to re-establish a respect for eroticism in our culture." ▼

**Philip Hitchcock's bodycast demonstration and book-signing at A Different Light, 489 Castro St., Thurs., March 21, 7 p.m.**

**Life-casting workshop at the Learning Annex, 291 Geary St., #510, Sat., March 23, 1-5 p.m. Course: \$44, Materials: \$25. To register, call (415) 788-5500 or go to www.thelearningannex.com.**



Metro Female, 2001, by Philip Hitchcock

## Matt Shepard

◀ previous page

Matthew Shepard, Canadian actor Shane Meier (like Matthew a son of the prairie, in this case Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, hundreds of miles due north of Matthew's Casper, Wyoming birthplace) had his biggest break playing the son of Clint Eastwood in the dark, multi-Oscar-winning Western *Unforgiven*. Eastwood is one William Munny, described as "a known thief and murderer, a man of notoriously vicious and intemperate disposition," hiding out as a pig farmer before returning to his old trade, gunfighter and avenging angel. In his biggest scene, the then-15-year-old Shane is wallowing in mud near a large wooden fence. The boy, blonde and small for his age, dwarfed by

the fence and the big Western sky, calls out to Eastwood, "Pa, hey pa, two more hogs got the fever."

At 24, Shane is one year younger and two inches taller than Matthew Shepard would have been had he lived. When Shepard was murdered, Meier remembers just how upset his mother became. "Did you hear about the poor young man who was killed in Wyoming, they tied him to a fence because he was gay. They say that, just like you, he's not tall. He looks like you, fair-skinned, and he didn't weigh a lot. They're doing this to small people now."

Eight years later, as Matthew Shepard, Meier found himself tied to a fence and covered in blood while his character was systematically beaten by a man of vicious and intemperate disposition. Meier said he knew from reading the script that this would be his

hair [extensions] and everything, but I act like him, I talk like him, I make jokes like him, I'm serious, I'm caring, warm like him. For five or six weeks, I engulfed myself with Matthew Shepard, I became him." Meier said his biggest compliment came when the real-life Judy Shepard called him her hero.

Ed Gernon is the producing partner with Goldie Hawn. Gernon said the film is a testament to Hawn's determination to get the rights to the Shepards' story, and the good relationship she developed with Judy Shepard. Gernon said the film has a unique point of view. "The subtle lesson in this film is that it isn't enough to just not throw your son out if he's gay. There's another level of acceptance, true, loving acceptance, and that's what the struggle between Matthew and his parents was. He wanted them to look at him for who he was. He wanted them to ask him about the boy he had seen in school, why he had his heart broken, and why Saudi Arabia was so painful. These were things that he really wanted his parents to know about him, but in spite of all their tolerance, all their acceptance, asking those probing questions was hard for them."

"The need to go further is what Judy and Dennis would like everyone to know, and that's what this film is about." ▼



Shane Meier: the toughest role

toughest and most harrowing role. "The script was so dark and disturbing, and I thought, 'How am I going to do this? Sure, I look like the guy, but how am I going to deal with being bound to a fence and just getting 18 blows to the head, getting raped [a incident that happened when Shepard was on vacation from boarding school in Morocco], kissing another guy! I kind of put it off to the side. Sure, it hit me quite a bit while I was shooting, but I kind of came at it with the respect that this is a job, of being a professional. How am I going to make this character flawless, how am I going to make it so his mom looks at me, and not only do I look him, with the

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## TELEVISION

# Ring around the Rosie

by Victoria A. Brownworth

**T**has been one of those weeks when one wishes to have been voted off the island already, just like Richard Riordan. Everything on TV is gruesome, grisly and grim. The Middle East is more fragile than ever, and the undeclared war in Afghanistan has killed more people in seven days than in the 160 days since the US began the incursion. And those are just the wars TV news chooses to report.

Of course, there's other TV news — a host of midseason replacement shows; the ongoing spat between David Letterman and the CBS powers-that-be, which is hotter than ever; rumors that ABC, in trying to pick up Letterman, was canning *Nightline*, the only real newsmagazine on network TV, the loss of which would be tremendous, as *Nightline* and *60 Minutes* are the only news shows that report on news outside the US on a regular basis; and ABC also possibly ditching *Politically Incorrect* with Bill Maher, the only serious talk show on network TV since Oprah went relationship-crazy.

Oh, and then there's the non-news TV-celebrity item that Rosie O'Donnell is — dare we say it? —



O'Donnell: Say it isn't so, Rosie!

queer. We love these announcements years after the fact. And we especially loved the "delicate" manner with which friend Barbara Walters broke the news on ABC's *The View*, as Rosie asked her to do. Of course, this in turn has started a feud between Walters and Diane Sawyer, because Sawyer wanted to break the story.

On Rosie, not to be vulgar, and we don't mean to presume, but if it looks like a duck, etcetera... Of course, Arsenio Hall had just asked Rosie a few weeks earlier what kind of men she liked to date, and she didn't take the opportunity to lean over and whisper, "Honey, doesn't everyone know I'm a big dyke?" Call us old-fashioned, but since we've never, ever seen Rosie with a man in the umpteen years we've been watching her host various shows and make public appearances elsewhere, we did think there was a possibility she was queer. Being fat is no impediment to finding a man — just ask Roseanne. And frankly, we thought that beard Rosie used, her obsession with Tom Cruise, just added to the rumors about him. We're glad she's out, especially since she's got the zillion kids. But we hope she doesn't decide to do a sitcom about a lesbian mom when she leaves ABC.

## Horror shows

No matter how much celebrity news there was on TV this week,

nothing could distract from the ongoing horror in Israel and the Palestinian territories. The bloodshed has reached exponential levels, with the fiercest fighting and most casualties in the 17 months since the recent wave of violence began. There is no end in sight, just more killing, with much of the violence toward Israel focused on children and teenagers.

The US has been woefully slow to act on this violence that threatens not merely Israel and the territories, but the entire region. If the Bush Administration has as its priority the war on terrorism, then that dictum needs to be applied everywhere, not just selectively. Yassir Arafat has never been committed to peace in the region; former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered him everything most Palestinians had ever asked for, including a part of Jerusalem, and he refused it. Since the most recent round of violence began, he has been almost wholly absent from the political canvas. He has said nothing and done nothing while suicide bombers murder children in Israel and bring the retaliatory wrath of Israel to bear on refugee camps where the terrorists hide among Palestinian women and children.

Meanwhile, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is Barak's polar opposite, and the present violence has been stoked repeatedly by him. Some say it was instigated by Sharon as a ploy to help him win the election away from the land-for-peace Barak. Sharon is possibly the worst thing to happen to Israel since the 1967 war, and opinion polls in Israel this week show him with less and less support in a nation riven by fear and violence. Losing Arafat and Sharon, the key players in this battle, could only help.

The position of the Bush Administration has been the opposite of the previous Administration. Where Clinton worked tirelessly to forge some peace agreement between the factions, Bush has looked the other way. Recently, he deplored the lack of response by Arafat to the escalating violence, and this week, Secretary of State Colin Powell, otherwise known as the man who wasn't there, spoke out against Israel. These statements have had an incendiary effect abroad, but have certainly done nothing to mitigate the violence. Every night Americans bear witness on the evening news to the harrowing violence with concomitant commentary from the ever anti-Israel reports of Peter Jennings and reporter Gillian Findlay on ABC, as well as more restrained and balanced reporting on NBC and CBS.

The question is, what is the US going to do? On *Meet the Press*, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice (or the real Secretary of State, as she's known), acknowledged an "escalating picture of violence" that was "horrendous," and also acknowledged that the Administration has come to realize something must be done. Rice, far more of a diplomat than anyone in the Administration, took a much softer line than Powell, and stated unequivocally that Chairman Arafat needs to recognize that terrorism is not the route to a better life for the Palestinian people, suggesting that the US, given its own incursion into

Afghanistan, should understand Israel's response to suicide bombings.

The US has an historical connection to Israel, and many living in Israel are US citizens. What is going on in the Middle East right now is war, as much as what the US is doing in Afghanistan is war. It's time the US addressed that violence outside of the realm of TV. When we allow such violence to go unchecked, we become complicit in it.

## Tragic figure

No doubt there are those in the US who don't find Andrea Yates sympathetic; she did, after all, murder her five young children. But watching the Texas trial, which is far more riveting than any we've seen thus far on TV, we can only ache for the loss and destruction of lives that was so very unnecessary. Friends and family describe a devoted mother whose spiral into madness went utterly unchecked by those who alleged to have loved her most.

Watching the trial has also made us ask this question: Where are the famous feminist attorneys? Why hasn't the feminist movement rallied behind this woman, who is so clearly a victim of sexism in almost every conceivable way? If we can cry out against the burka, can't we do something for a woman like Yates here in our

own "democratic" country?

One of the most intriguing things we saw on TV this week was a roundtable of legal and medical experts convened by *Good Morning America* (why this show doesn't have higher ratings, we just can't figure) to debate the Yates case with senior legal correspondent Cynthia McFadden. Their assessment: medically she's insane, legally she isn't. Legally, her husband could be charged with negligent homicide in the deaths of the children because he failed to get her help, and he left her with them knowing her state of mind was perilous. But the likelihood that he will be charged is nil. TV brings this kind of debate to the fore. Compelling stuff in a week filled with nothing but compelling news.

Not so compelling are the midseason shows that debut this and next week. A slew of barely watchable sitcoms offers nothing for an audience that isn't comprised of young, straight, sex-obsessed females. *Seinfeld* fans may "get" *Watching Ellie*, starring *Seinfeld* alum Julia Louis-Dreyfus as a ditzy lounge singer looking for love in all the wrong places (did she consider Rosie O'Donnell?), but we couldn't even raise a chuckle during the excruciating opener, which leads us to believe it's a *Seinfeld* thing, we wouldn't understand.

Debuting next week on ABC is *The Court* starring Sally Field (we'd like to say you'll really, really like her, but...) which is a better-written variation on CBS' *First*

Monday (or, as we call it, *Worst Monday*). It's becoming painfully obvious that good acting simply isn't enough to save bad shows, so just don't watch. But the ABC sitcom premiering March 27, *Wednesday*, is worth a peek. At least it's funny. And, of course, you know we love *Survivor*. This time, the kids are island-bound on the Marquesas, which are so extraordinarily beautiful that most of us would eat bugs to get there. And since this time the tribes have no provisions and must forage on their own, bug-eating is *de rigueur*. Watch for the scenery alone, though there's a lot of intrigue and some sexual pairing this time around. CBS's other hit reality series, *The Amazing Race*, debuts its second round next week. Also worth (escapist) viewing.

Finally, our moment of the week had to be the high-camp hissy-fit pitched between Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) at the hearings over the controversial appointment of James Pickering as federal judge.

Hatch and Leahy, heads of the subcommittee, are old friends and two of the smartest men in the Senate. Apparently, they didn't know their microphones were on as they vaunted like a couple of queens over who said what about supporting Pickering. It was campy and insightful and makes one glad the cameras are on in the seat of power. Nothing like a human face on government. Who says *The West Wing* is just TV? ▼



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# South Asian, Muslim and gay

Ghalib Shiraz Dhalla's debut novel is full of high drama

by Sandip Roy

*Ode to Lata* by Ghalib Shiraz Dhalla; Really Great Books, \$22.95

Hollywood has discovered Bollywood, India's bustling movie industry. First, *Moulin Rouge* literally recreated a Hindi film song-and-dance sequence in Paris. Then, Hollywood's own three-hour-plus *Laagaan* nabbed an Oscar nomination for Best Foreign Film. Now it's West Hollywood's turn to discover Bollywood, thanks to Ghalib Shiraz Dhalla's debut novel *Ode to Lata*.

*Ode to Lata* is set in Los Angeles, not Hollywood, but it's imprinted with the Bollywood trademark of high drama, pining love and longing. And in true Bollywood style, at particularly dramatic moments, Lata, the ethereal-voiced dowager empress of a playback singer for five decades of Hindi film, chimes in with her own songs of pathos and unrequited love. Of course, it's not really Lata, just her voice channelled by the overheated

imagination of the narrator, Ali. An Indian man who grew up in Kenya, he now works by day in a bank in Los Angeles. But Ali is really a creature of the night — looking for love and lust in places no self-respecting Hindi film would dare tread, pulsating dance floors and steamy sex clubs where men lie waiting for someone to piss on them.

Ali is something new in gay fiction, a South Asian Muslim protagonist struggling to find himself in the postcard-perfect world of Los Angeles club clones. In him, Dhalla attempts to show the tensions of being an immigrant coming to full boil. Gay immigrants like Ali have little support from their parent communities and fit uneasily into a gay culture that seemed so attractive from afar.

*Ode to Lata* is more a rumination on that see-saw balancing act than it is a novel with a conventional storyline. Ali's attempt to drown himself in a whirl of dance, drugs and sex is intercut with memories of his childhood in Mombasa, Kenya, his parents' own violent doomed marriage, his boyhood lovers. Pop psychol-

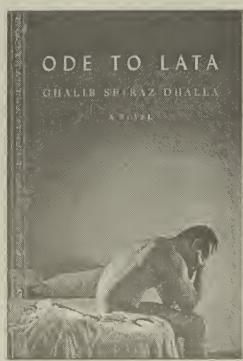
ogists could probably map that onto his penchant for falling in love with all manner of unsuitable boys. But that's not so important — what the novel tries to show is how lonely Ali is even at the peak of his social frenzy. In a particularly poignant moment, he wonders if the reason he stays out till dawn on a Saturday night is so that he can sleep away Sunday and not have to face the "family day" on his own.

#### Mother love

For someone like Ali, family is critical, even when it drives him up the wall. One of the best-realized characters in the book is his overprotective mother, devoutly praying for his wayward soul and sipping a little Scotch on the side. She could have easily been a caricature, but Dhalla gives her a complicated humanity that is touching. Many a gay man, especially people who come from strong family backgrounds, will recognize Mummy and remember with a twinge of shame their own conflicted feelings about their own mothers. When

Mummy is not around, his friends become his chosen family. Dhalla deftly sketches Ali's friends. The best friend he goes back to when the boyfriends don't work out. The South Asian gay friends with whom he can be both Indian and gay, except when he feels like they are suffocating him with their gossip and pack mentality. The lovers who use him and reject him (or is it the other way around?) Dhalla is nothing if not honest as he grapples with duty, religion, race, AIDS, sex-club etiquette and his own hang-ups about it all.

It's a heady brew, and Dhalla cannot always control it. The prose sometimes veers into the overripe. The lack of a clear narrative line blurs stories so you cannot always remember which sex-club scenario you were just reading. Characters appear and disappear and can confuse a reader who might be a little inattentive. And every now and then, Dhalla seems to take a digression from the actual novel into ruminating about being gay and Indian, rather than moving the story



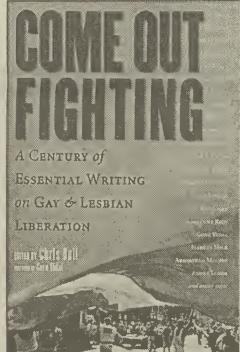
along.

But when you are charting virgin territory, there's a lot of ground to cover, and it's never enough. Does Ali find true love? Does his mother come to terms with who her son is? You'll have to read the book to find that out. But this much is for certain: this is probably the first South Asian gay novel that unabashedly has its legs up in the air. ▼

# Fighting words

by Jim Nawrocki

*Come Out Fighting: A Century of Essential Writing on Gay & Lesbian Liberation*, edited by Chris Bull; Thunder's Mouth Press/Nation Books, \$17.95



Now that we've crossed over into the 21st century, it seems appropriate to begin looking back at the 20th century and try to put it into perspective. It's our nature, after all, to regard our calendar and the milestones it represents as a somehow indelible, objective measure of time. The reality, of course, is that the numbers we use to measure time are arbitrary, and history is fluid. The world we live in today isn't all that different from the one we inhabited in 1999 or even 1989. In terms of our social history, and our gay and lesbian history, the present builds upon the past, and great changes usually come about as the result of small but significant steps. Many of these are represented in what we've written in manifestoes, fiction, and even in personal letters. Chris Bull, a writer for the *Washington Post* and the *Advocate*, has collected important 20th-century gay and lesbian writings of "liberation" in a new anthology, *Come Out Fighting*.

In a very brief forward to the book, Gore Vidal (whose essays "Pink Triangle" and "Yellow Star" and "J'accuse!" are also included in the book) makes a passionate, angry call for an end to America's cult of monotheism and the evils — homophobia among them — that it has engendered. "The fact that there is a need for this book is yet another demonstration of how remote the United States is from approaching a civilization that might even get as far as the semi-finals with Rome, Greece or even some of Margaret Mead's Pacific Islanders, imagined or not," he writes.

*Come Out Fighting* is not just a collection of gay and lesbian

his homosexuality has made him a "nigger," and Black Panther Huey Newton, who exhorts fellow Panthers to embrace the plight of all "oppressed people," including women and homosexuals. There are speeches from gay heroes like Harvey Milk, and representative selections from great gay and lesbian writers like James Baldwin, Tennessee Williams, Audre Lorde and Adrienne Rich.

Bull has an admitted fondness for personal letters, and he includes several of them in this book. Freud's 1935 "Letter to an American Mother" is a touching, comforting document offered to a woman who is clearly concerned about her son's homosexuality; it reveals Freud as not only a humane, compassionate doctor, but as a thinker well ahead of his time. Also included is "A Coming Out Letter and a Response" from conservatives Marvin Lieberman and William F. Buckley, Jr., a dialog of letters that serves as a testament to the friendship of both men, but also to the reality of a distinct difference of opinion between them. Bull even includes Armistead Maupin's "Letter to Mama" from his novel *More Tales of the City*, the only novel excerpt in the book, included, notes Bull in his introduction, because of its overwhelming popularity.

Any anthology of this kind is bound to be accused of leaving out certain significant writings, but Bull has done a good job of including some of the best, and most famous. Susan Sontag's "Notes on Camp" is in the book, as are many other notable pieces, including some from the early days of the AIDS epidemic. One complaint about *Come Out Fighting* is that it contains relatively little in the way of text notes about the selections. It would have been good to know, for example, a little more about Freud's "Letter to an American Mother" and some of the more obscure pieces in the collection. Nevertheless, *Come Out Fighting* is a valuable book, and an inspiring one. ▼

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# Multiple manias

Meet 'Electroboy' Andy Behrman

by Jay Blotcher

No journey to self-knowledge is easy, but *Electroboy* author Andy Behrman faced a unique set of challenges. A manic-depressive, obsessive-compulsive, bisexual growing up in suburban New Jersey, he took almost two decades to understand himself. The journey almost destroyed him.

A former publicist and art dealer, Behrman, 40, exudes a charm that is as engaging as it is calculating. Blessed with a flawless sense of fashion and a bruising sense of irony, he was a fixture on the New York City party scene during the '80s and '90s. Behrman pursued fabulosity with singular purpose. He collected famous friends as fervently as he did designer labels. Cocaine, crystal meth and ecstasy helped maintain 20-hour days. They also aggravated his bipolar condition, which remained undiagnosed. Behrman was spinning out of control.

"The sicker and sicker I got, the more healthy people thought I was," Behrman said in an interview, "because I became more creative, more productive, more efficient."

Finally, Behrman's condition escalated and led him to behavior that landed him in jail. In a desperate bid to rewire his damaged brain, he underwent 19 sessions of electroconvulsive (or "electroshock") therapy (ECT). Fried but functional, Behrman has found closure in writing *Electroboy: A Memoir of Mania* (Random House). In prose that is bracingly irreverent, Behrman faithfully recounts his madness, played out against the '80s, an era known for wretched excess. *Electroboy* is a worthy companion to *The Bell Jar* and *Girl, Interrupted*. It makes *Bright Lights, Big City* and *American Psycho* read like pallid fairy tales.

Revisiting his darkest days was painful, Behrman admitted. Writing the book took more than two

years. Both his psychiatrist and lawyer advised against it. But writing *Electroboy*, he said, was an act of defiance. "I can go to jail; I can have 19 electroshock treatments. But I am not going to be sick."

Misinformation still plagues the study of manic-depression (MD), he said. Until now, the most high-profile MD sufferer has been actress Patti Duke, who recounted her struggle in two books. Behrman himself was misdiagnosed eight times, because MD seems the behavior of a spoiled child, marked by hypersexuality, delusions of grandeur, and ruinous shopping sprees.

"MD is like trying to live a whole lifetime of exciting moments, great dinners, and great sex and drugs and alcohol in one day. Just because it gets you so high," Behrman said. But the disease pushes many to suicide. "There are nights of not sleeping. Then sleeping 22 hours and waking up, not knowing what day it is or time it is. Not knowing if you're hungry or if you want to have sex. Confusing all your needs and desires."

#### Infantile behavior

MD also makes a person impulsive, generous, and oddly charismatic: in short, the type of person prized in New York City society. Behrman's life was dominated by all-night partying and jetsetting, financed by stacks of cash kept in his freezer. In the early '90s, he became publicist and dealer for painter-huckster Mark Kostabi. Eager to make a name for himself, Kostabi allowed Behrman to mold his reputation as an *enfant terrible*. The artist was unstoppable; once he claimed that AIDS was good for the art world. But when the boss had chronic trouble paying employees, Behrman and a colleague took revenge: they would sell counterfeit Kostabis in Germany and Japan, and pocket the cash. The hoax, although born of Behrman's MD, possessed a loopy brilliance:

Kostabi paintings, like those of his idol Andy Warhol, were created in assembly-line fashion. Lackeys painted the canvases; Kostabi would simply sign his name. The scheme was discovered, resulting in a splashy 1993 court case. His mind clouded by illness, Behrman virtually sleepwalked through the trial. He was sentenced to five months in a community detention center and five months of house arrest, his actions monitored by authorities via an electronic manacle on his ankle.

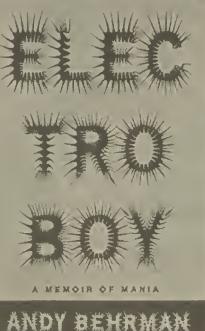
Behrman's MD was eventually confirmed in 1995 after a severe meltdown. Doctors fed him more than 30 drug regimens. Nothing worked until ECT. Behrman's demons were quelled, but the voltage wiped out his past.

"The confusion and the loss of memory from ECT is shocking," Behrman laughed at his choice of words. "Um, no pun intended. I was warned of memory loss, but I was not prepared for the extent of it." It took three years for a complete recovery of his memory.

A remarkable aspect of *Electroboy*, in this era of identity politics, is the fluidity of Behrman's sexuality. During the late '80s, Behrman was in a five-year relationship with a woman. When his bipolar incidents spiked, she left him. Behrman turned to bi and gay sex, including threesomes, sex with male hustlers, and a stint as a go-go dancer in a Times Square gay club. His experience begs the question, Was his homosexuality inherent, or fueled by manic depression?

"In the book, I always describe myself as omnisexual," Behrman said. "It didn't matter [in those days] if I had sex with a man or a woman. It did not matter if I were just alone and fantasizing. Sex was just like a vitamin. I needed it to keep going." Medication has moderated his libido. "But it only takes two days off anti-psychotics to return to that place."

The hype surrounding *Electroboy* may seem untoward for a book about a crippling mental illness. Random House has launched a campaign replete with t-shirts and stickers bearing a lightning-bolt insignia. There is an even a contest, where the winner has dinner with Behrman, anywhere in the country. But



these excesses are certainly in keeping with the black comedy of the book.

Behrman's manic side has been focused to meet the rigors of the book tour: The veteran flack has made pitch calls to editors himself, and has spent many hours taping up *Electroboy* posters on Manhattan streets. *The New York Times* slammed what they saw as unbridled self-promotion, titling a profile "His Mouth Runneth Over." But Behrman's website, [www.electroboy.com](http://www.electroboy.com), offers information and referrals to MD sufferers, and has attracted many of help.

Despite the apparent grandstanding, life for Behrman is no party. Manic-depression still stalks him, only kept in check by a battery of medications. "Even when you're well, you're waiting for that next moment when you go really high or low," he said. "Now I can recognize the signs: lack of sleep, general anxiety, and then a psychotic episode. I imagine that someone is trying to cut off my tongue with a razor blade. So I know my meds are off."

He plans a sequel to *Electroboy* which will explain his everyday living in the long shadow of MD. For now, Behrman exults in the joy of seeing his story in print. "It's such a great feeling after a decade of hell." ▼

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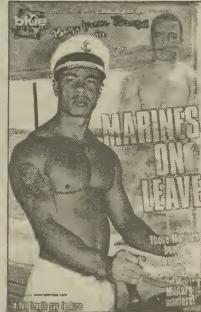
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## FILM

### Resident's day



**S**omething terrible is lurking in the Hive, and Alice (Milla Jovovich) must lead fellow commandos to isolate the virus that has wiped out Umbrella's entire research staff in Paul W.S. Anderson's *Resident Evil*, opening Friday. Hey, viruses, anti-viruses, and the zombie-like Undead? Sounds like just another day in the office!

This videogame-come-to-the-screen also stars Michelle Rodriguez, Eric Mabius, Martin Crewes, and the eminently slurpable James Purefoy. For the escapist at heart. ▼

# OUT & ABOUT

## Calendare

by Mark Mardon

### LaBelle's Detour

I ducked into my old haunt The Detour Bar over the weekend, something I do more infrequently than ever these days. It used to be 20 years ago or so I went to gay bars a lot to cruise and booze while the house music served as a backdrop. The Detour has changed little over the years, but I've changed a lot, especially having become an ardent fan of the deejay art form and its practitioners. So whenever I'm in the Detour or any bar with a live DJ, the music is foremost on my mind, while the men and booze serve as the backdrops.

It was a Friday night, when all the young-uns were living it up at The Center, and I had just come from hanging out with my DJ pal Logos, who has helped me fine-tune my ear for vinyl and CD mixing. The night was young, the men were fresh, the bartenders were cute, and life in the Castro never seemed more romantic.

So it was I re-experienced the masterful mixing sounds of DJ Sam LaBelle. I had almost forgotten about him. For years he's been a part of the scene — he and Tom Seymour own the great DJ store Soundworks on Valencia St., where all the local DJs go to partake of the record pool — but perhaps I'd taken him too much for granted. Maybe I never really listened to what he was up to in that dark booth above the crowd, his face always hidden in shadows. Maybe it was my anti-house bias that led me to ignore LaBelle for so long, to lump him in with all those other house DJs who have little finesse, who are intent on dominating the crowd with the thump thump thump of their pumping house, drowning out all possibility for conversation, leaving everyone groping, guzzling and glaring.

But on this night a magical vibe permeated the air, and LaBelle played with it. I parked myself on one of those ledges, facing the old chain-link-fence sections that divide the Detour into tight cruising lanes, giving it that distinctive '70s ambience, like something out of *Querelle*.

Then LaBelle's music started penetrating my consciousness. First I noticed it physically, from the reverberations sent upward through my body. Then I caught its elegance, a quality I've never ascribed to house music, but which aptly describes LaBelle's spinning. What convinced me of his brilliance was his injecting a David Sylvian romantic lyrical mushy soulful New Wavy vocal into a house track, the rhythms perfectly in-sync, the resulting unexpected mix beautifully conceived and flawlessly executed. LaBelle's mix transported listeners in a way only a master DJ can achieve, lifting the crowd up with the beat and moving them with the melody.

The vibe in the Detour on Friday was as upbeat as I've ever experienced it. People were actually moving to the beat! (So often in bars with bad DJs, the patrons sit there like lumps.) Therefore my well-worn clubbing hat is off to LaBelle for a great set, and here's a toast too to that indestructible club, the Detour, for continuing to be the best cruise lounge in the Castro. ▶



NYC's the Toilet Boys: Sean, Adam, Miss Guy, Rocket, and Eddie. See Tuesday.

A Conference for Younger and Older Gay Men. In workshops and panel discussions, gay men learn from gay role models. \$25-\$100 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 10am-4:30pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street @ Octavia. Info/registration: 552-7200; [www.harveymilk.org](http://www.harveymilk.org).

American Underground cinema. This plus other offerings make this a Beat night you won't want to miss. Gallons of red wine will flow freely to invoke Dionysian spirits. \$5. 8pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. Info: 824-3890.

#### Thrust Stage at Berkeley Rep

World Premiere: *Shotgun Players* present "A Fairy's Tail," a play by Adam Bock. It's the story of a girl, Little Missy What's-Her-Face, and her odyssey of revenge and personal transformation. Directed by Patrick Dooley, music by Clive Worsley, and Kristin Miltner, choreography by Andrea Weber, puppets by Sylvia Dawkins. \$25 opening night; \$10 Thu.; \$18 regular; \$12 seniors/students/Theatre Bay Area members. 8pm. Thru April 20. 2025 Addison, Downtown Berkeley. Tix/info: (510) 704-8210; [www.shotgunplayers.org](http://www.shotgunplayers.org)

#### SFPALM

"Bay Area Women composers Symposium," featuring live musical excerpts and a panel discussion with Elinor Armer, Linda Bouchard, Gabriela Lena Frank, Amy X Neuburg, Pamela Z and moderator Sarah Cahill. \$15 (\$10 students). 1-4pm. Also tonight at 8pm, a Ruth Crawford Seeger Centennial Concert will be held (\$15/\$10). SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, 401 Fan Ness Ave., 4th Floor. Info: 255-4800; [www.sfpalm.org](http://www.sfpalm.org)

#### Space 550

Gus presents the second annual "Metropolis Green Party" (bigger, stronger, faster, greener), a St. Patrick's Day Weekend party with 4 (leaf clover) dance floors. Featuring a virtual rainforest, green jello shots, 2002 hot & sweaty leprechauns, and DJ sounds in the main room by jolly green circuit giant. Manny Lehman, plus Mr. Jon P spinning trance in the jade green room, Jim Hopkins

ily and friends. Enhance strategies to survive and thrive, and celebrate personal and community triumphs. Free. 6:30-9:15pm. 1930 Market St. RSVP: 476-6448, ext. 1.

#### Unitarian Center

San Francisco Zen Center presents "Skin, Flesh, Bones, and Marrow: Expressing Insight," a talk by Natalie Goldberg, famed author, teacher and poet, as part of the series "Buddhism Unfolds: Opening Hearts and Minds." Out lesbian Goldberg has been practicing Zen meditation and teaching writing for 25 years. She lives in northern New Mexico and is the author of *Long Quiet Highway: Waking Up in America* (chronicling her relationship with her Zen master, Dainin Katagiri-Roshhi, as he died of cancer), *Banana Rose* (a novel), *Thunder and Lightning* (a creative writing guide), and *Living Color*, a book about her work as a painter. \$16. 7:30pm. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary). Tix/info: 863-3133; [www.sfcz.org](http://www.sfcz.org)

#### Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

In concert: Kronos Quartet, with David Harrington (violin), John Sherba (violin), Hank Dutt (viola), and Jennifer Culp (cello). Featuring works from the group's latest project, *Nuevo*, featuring music by Mexican composers, including Juan Garcia Esquivel, Silvestre Revueltas, Agustin Lara, Chafina Sanchez, Cafe Tacuba and others. Also Henryk Gorecki's Quartet No. 2 (*Quasi Una Fantasia*), written especially for Kronos. Synonymous with musical innovation, the Kronos Quartet is famed for its unique artistic vision and fearless dedication to experimentation. \$20 & \$28. 8pm. Also on March 16. YBCA Theatre, 700 Howard St. Tix/info: 978-2787; [www.yerbabuenaarts.org](http://www.yerbabuenaarts.org); [www.kronosquartet.org](http://www.kronosquartet.org)

#### AHP Services Center

Workshop for gay and bisexual men: "Surviving Homophobia: Loving Ourselves & Each Other." Look at the ways gay/bi men have been affected by homophobia and the lack of acceptance by society, fam-

Hike. Enjoy the rushing waters of Alameda Creek, fresh air, spring flowers, and some exercise in the East Bay hills. It's a moderately strenuous 8-10-mile hike. Meet 9:15am at the foot of the Rockridge BART station escalator. Club info: 487-6410; [www.sfhik-ing.com](http://www.sfhik-ing.com)

#### HMI @ The Center

Harvey Milk Institute special event: "Aging and Sexuality:

#### The LAB Gallery

Los Cybrids: La Raza Technocritica return to the LAB with a fresh multimedia performance, "El World Brain Disorder: surveillance.control.penedejismo," a War Time Performance featuring Rene Garcia, Praba Pilar, and John Learios exploring the often hilarious, dysfunctional convergences of surveillance technologies, military industrial complexes, national police states, and fundamentalist extremism that is accelerating the hyper-globalization of catastrophe and inequality. Probe Enabled Fashion Preferred. \$5-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 864-8855; [www.cybrids.com](http://www.cybrids.com)

#### Sat 16

**SF Hiking Club**  
Join other outdoors lovers for a Sunol Regional Wilderness



Tom Eyen's *Women Behind Bars* lampoons women's prison movies of the '50s, at Theatre Rhinoceros. See Saturday.

holding forth upstairs in the greenHouse, and Rob Kaftan enthroned in the Emerald City Anthem tent. \$20 (\$10 b4 11pm with flyer/ad/web print-out). 10pm-sunshine. 550 Barneveld (at Oakdale & Industrial). Info: www.guspre-sents.com

## Sun 17

### 26 Mix

Fudgie Frottage and Vinsantos present "Transfusion," a niteclub designed to pump some new blood into this town. Featuring "Trannymania, Smackdown IV" — unstoppable tranny madness starring your hosts plus The Shack, Title Holders, Tag Teams, Gushers, Marshmallows, Heels and Snozzes, celebrity trannies, bois, girls, femmes and more. See old and new wrestling holds like the "half-Nelson-Reilly" and the "Boston Camelot" invented by none other than Ms. Precious Moments. Exquisite DJing by Taffy D. \$5 in drag (King, Queen, Tranny, High Femme, Fetish, Punk, Wrestling & Leprechaun); otherwise \$6. 10pm-2am. 3024 Mission St. (at 26th St.). Info: 282-5378; www.reverendmichel.com

### Ruby Sky

"Fresh: pour homme," a St. Patrick's Day T-dance with DJ Mark Tarbox (The Zoo Party, San Diego). Featuring the men and fashions of Body-BodyWear. \$20 door (\$15 b4 7pm). 6pm-midnight. 420 Mason St. (btwn Post & Geary). Info: www.freshsf.com

### Glama-Rama

Opening reception: "Kings of the Road," Erin O'Neill's critically acclaimed series of 42 photographic portraits documenting the North American Drag King scene. O'Neill began the project in San Francisco in 1997, when the culture was in its infancy with local stars like Elvis Herself and Artie Fischal. It now encompasses Kings from Columbus, Toronto, Winnipeg, Seattle, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz. O'Neill's work has appeared widely in galleries and publications. Free. 5:30-8:30pm. 417 South Van Ness Ave. Info: 861-4526.

### Lake Merritt Rowing Club, Oakland

The SF Bay Blades, a gay and lesbian rowing club, invites all to their "3rd Annual Spring Orientation." Beginners and experienced LGBT rowers, scullers and coxswains welcome. Introduction and hands-on demonstration. Practices are one weekend evening at 8:30am and/or two weekday evenings after work. Free. 11:30am. 1520 Lakeside Dr. (just northeast of 14th St. downtown), Oakland. Info: call Hizam (beginners) at (415) 285-1202, or Andrew (experienced) at (415) 409-0322; www.sfbayblades.org

### New Hope MCC, Santa Rosa

In concert: gay contemporary Christian singer Jason Warner (*Only A Whisper; Mercy Said No*) brings a musical message of hope to the desperate and unconditional love for all. Warner toured with the professional contemporary Christian recording group Truth and then with a group of four men called Sound. He has ministered at hundreds of churches, conventions, and conferences. Co-sponsored by MCC of the Redwood Empire. Free (a love offering will be collected). 6pm. 855 Seventh St., Santa Rosa. Info: (707) 526-HOPE.



"Kings of the Road" portraits by erin o'neill adorn Glama-Rama. See Sunday.

## Mon 18

### Green Room, War Memorial Performing Arts Center

Earplay presents a concert of contemporary American chamber music, conducted by Mary Chun. Featuring a performance of David Schiff's quintet "Scenes from Adolescence" as well as new work by Jim Carr and more. \$18. 8pm (pre-concert discussion at 7:15pm). 401 Van Ness Ave., 2nd floor.

### Herbst Theatre

"Words On Dance" presents legendary prima ballerina Cynthia Gregory in conversation with SF Ballet principal Joanna Berman, with film clips of Gregory in some of her most memorable performances, including her famous "Swan Lake" as well as Alvin Ailey's "The River," Kenneth MacMillan's "Concerto," and others. Gregory joined the SF Ballet at age 14, and went on to fame at the American Ballet Theatre. She retired in 1991. Berman, a principal with SF Ballet since 1988, recently announced her plan to retire at the end of the 2002 season. \$12 balcony, box, dress circle; \$20 orchestra; \$100 premiere tickets (center orchestra plus reception at Stars Restaurant). 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 392-4400

### Plush Room

Bruce E. Phillips and eCabaret-SF.com present "A Cavalcade of Cabaret," emceed by Donna Sachet, featuring a lineup of veteran cabaret artists and new faces including Bill Cooper, Bradley Cotton, Coley Grundman, Eric LaMotte, Jennifer Larson, Heather Lauren, Barry Lloyd, Meg Mackay, John McCullough, Richard Nickol, Billy Philadelphia, Bruce Phillips, Kristi Rush, and Kitty Ultra Sound. \$20. 8pm. 940 Sutter St. Tix: 885-2800.

## Tue 19

### Slim's

The Toilet Boys, the pride-and-joy of the New York City queer rock scene, return to SF with their signature hard-candy hybrid of metal crunch and sugar-coated punk. Led by drag queen Miss Guy, their live shows are not to be missed, complete with over-the-top theatrics and fiery pyro. Texas Terri & the Stiff Ones and Candyass open. \$12. 8pm. 333 Eleventh St. Info: 255-0333.

### A Different Light

Women's Book Group, led by Maria Pine, featuring a discussion of the book *White*

*Oleander* by Janet Fitch, a shockingly realistic story of how one young girl's life is turned upside-down by the mistakes of her mother. Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; www.adbooks.com

### SFLG Freedom Band @ Bethany United Methodist

"Women in Music!" Celebrate Women's History Month with the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band as it kicks off its 2002 Community Concert Series. Featuring a concert of music composed by or for women, conducted by Artistic Director Jadin Louie, including the Band's indoor premiere of Jennifer Higdon's "Freedom Dreams," commissioned for the Band as part of the 2000 Continental Harmony Project, plus the West Coast premiere of Julie Giroux's "Louisiana Parish Sketches." Also: Tracey Rush's "Spirit of Freedom Fanfare," Mark Camphouse's "A Movement for Rosa (Parks)," Elena Roussanova-Lucas' "Harvesting the Fields of Russia," and Anne McGinty's "The Red Balloon." The SFLG Freedom Band is a resident program of the Jon Sims Center for the Arts. Free. 8:15pm. 1268 Sanchez St. Info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

### Intersection for the Arts

"New Works / New Voices: Readings by Diane di Prima and Susan Thackrey. Ever since her star rose in the Beat era of the 1950s and '60s, di Prima, who was born in Brooklyn in 1934, has been a major voice in the poetry community. She is the author of 35 books translated into more than 20 languages and has been published in more than 300 literary and popular magazines and newspapers. Thackrey's debut book of poetry, *Empty Gate*, was published in 1999. Her work appeared in the most recent issue of *Five Fingers Review*. \$5 donation. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th & 16th). Info: 626-2787.

### Mark I. Chester Studio

Opening reception: "Mark I. Chester's Male Figure Drawing Group's 15th anniversary show." The city's longest running gay male sketch group presents work on the male figure in a wide variety of media and styles. Free. 6-7:30pm. Also open for viewing March 23 & 24, 2-5pm. 1229 Folsom St. Info: 621-6294; mchester.best.vwh.net/draw.html

## Wed 20

### The Stud

"Stood Up!" Stand-up comedy hosted by Pippi Lovestocking, with Kevin Avery, Tony

Dijamco, Lesli Chollar, Gary Cannon, Gretchen Roots, and Bridget Schwartz. \$5. Doors open 7pm; show at 8pm. 1284 Harrison St. (at 9th St.). Info: 863-6623.

### Venue 9

Meet the Beat presents "Spring yes Spring," an experiment in spoken word, music and art featuring Don Bejima, M.I.Blue and Delia Nakajima and their musical accompanists. Local actor/scribes Susan Birkeland and Tom Stolmar curate and host. \$6-\$10 sliding. 8pm. 252 9th St. (btwn Folsom & Howard). Tix/Info: 289-2000; www.venue9.com

### The Center

Art benefit: "Picture Perfect," an art auction to benefit the photographic series "Rattlesnake in a Moving Car: HIV in the Lives of Twenty Longtime Positives." \$20 door. 7:35-10pm. SF Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center, 1800 Market Street. Info: 647-5742.

## Thu 21

### Space 743

Opening reception: "Journey — Two Voices," sculptures by Reddy Lieb and Linda Raynsford who recycle found castoffs as the building material of choice. Both are exploring concepts of interior space and containment, and both have shown in the Bay Area and nationally. Space 743 is a 1,100 sq. ft. SoMa exhibition space. Free. 6-8pm. 743 Harrison St. Info: 777-9080.

### A Different Light

"Dark Impressions of Phillip Hitchcock," in which the controversial sculptor discusses and demonstrates his techniques for creating castings taken from life. His work is presented in his book *Dark Impressions*. Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; www.adbooks.com

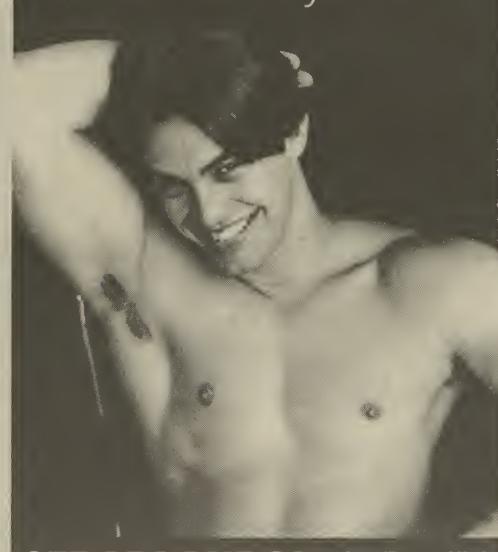
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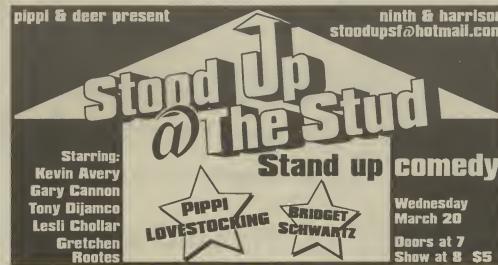
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The Mr. San Francisco 2002 winners lined up on Friday, March 8 at Club Townsend. From left are Scott Brogan, first runner-up; Peter Jackson, Mr. SF Leather 2002; and Adam Heller, second runner-up. Jackson advances to compete at IML 2002 in Chicago on Memorial Day Weekend.

Mister Marcus

# Peter Jackson KOs the competition!

by Mister Marcus

From Munich, Germany to San Francisco — with stops in between in Saugatuck, Michigan, Philadelphia and Kansas City — this past leather weekend was a knockout! Contests were staged and titles bestowed on four leather men and one boy. The winning men will compete for the ultimate Int'l Mr. Leather 2002 title in Chicago in May, while the winning boy will compete for the American Leather Boy 2002 title in Washington, D.C. in April.

The biggest spectacle happened here in San Francisco, in the roped-off "boxing ring" at Club Townsend, surrounded by throngs of bears, leather men and women, imperial title holders, latex lovers and more. Being there was like being at a major title bout in Madison Square Garden, but with leather all around. The evening's emcee, comedian Mark Davis, grabbed the center microphone, dangling from above, and immediately the action and antics kicked into high gear.

First came the audience warm-up with a dazzling dancer/boxer number with excellent pugilistic choreography and a simulated knock-down, drag out battle.

That got the audience into

the boxing spirit completely, and everyone delivered rousing cheers as the five robe-clad contenders for the Mr. SF Leather 2002 contest — Adam Heller, Dan Alexander, Michael Schaefer, Scott Brogan and Peter Jackson — entered the "arena" from the rear of Club Townsend. The hopefuls moved into the spotlights where a regulation-size boxing ring was waiting for them to "weigh in."

The crowd waited with eager anticipation as the scoring procedure was explained and the judges were introduced. Any contender wishing the big prize would have to win over seasoned leather judges Lenny Broberg, Omar Moseley, Jim Gatteau, Ray Tilton, Briggs Hawley, and Vince Edd (from Seattle).

The competition began in earnest as the contestants sailed through the leather image, question and answers, speeches and physique segments, with judges noting every move. Just as in any "boxing" match, Nolan and Miranda kept a running ring-side dialogue, keeping the crowd up on everything that was happening.

In between scoring segments, to the delight of the crowd, "commercials" featuring the Sling, Blow Buddies and Stomper Boots were intermittently inserted. At one point the inimitable

Snatch acted out a "sponsor" sequence featuring Crisco.

Outbursts of well-deserved applause greeted MUMC President Patrick Batt as he was presented with the Peter Austin Memorial Service Award, and as Gavin Middleton earned the Unsung Hero Award for 2002 — both well deserved, guys!

Houston Davenport delivered a well-received farewell speech that was short and to the point. He gave a heartfelt thanks to all who supported and mentored him during his title year.

The diva Snatch wowed the crowd in a dazzling black feather outfit in a rousing number with a hunky submissive, ending with a big splash and a standing ovation for Snatch.

By this time, tally masters Tim Wong and Paul Needham had finished their task and the results were brought to the stage. A hush fell on the audience as the names were announced:

The second runner-up was Adam Heller (Mr Powerhouse). The first runner-up was Scott Brogan (Mr. Edge). The winner was Peter Jackson, sponsored by Stomper's Boots. Bedlam erupted in the house. Whoops and cheers greeted the new Mr. San Francisco Leather. At a height of 6' and weighing in at a trim 220 pounds, this architect is sure to make an impact among the IML 2002 competitors.

next page ▶

## EVENTURES IN LEATHER

### Friday, March 15

It's the Ides of March, and the Exiles are having their monthly meeting with "A Good Old Fashioned Spanking" (consensual, of course) featuring Janet Hardy at the Women's Bldg., at 1930. \$3 for members, \$6 for guests.

### Saturday, March 16

In Baltimore, Sir and Boy competition at the Hippo with winners competing for Mid-Atlantic Sir and Boy. Info: [BaltimoreLthrClub@yahoo.com](mailto:BaltimoreLthrClub@yahoo.com).

Deadline for applications for Dyke Daddy and Dyke Diva contests being held on April 15th. For more info, email [saleal@earthlink.net](mailto:saleal@earthlink.net).

### Weekend, March 15-17

Mr. Las Vegas Leather 2002 contest. For more info, email [joenicklv@aol.com](mailto:joenicklv@aol.com) or click on [www.luvclv.org](http://www.luvclv.org).

### Sunday, March 17

"Lucky in Leather- The Green Party" by ACLC at the Turf Club in Hayward with their annual St.

Patrick's Day free corn beef & cabbage feed and the "Fist the Leprechaun" event. No cover. Call (510) 436-4751 for info & details.

### Wednesday, March 20

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison for a \$10 donation. Clothes check mandatory. If you got it flaunt it, but if you flaunt it, expect to have it trashed!

### Thursday, March 21

Mr. July 2003 will be chosen at the Powerhouse at 2130 tonight with judges Ray Perea and Donna Sachet to name two. Win \$100. Fame. Glory!

### Saturday, March 23

Peter Fitz passes his sash tonight in Los Angeles with nine hunks competing for the title. If you're in the vicinity, it's the only place to be!

Wild West Bunkhouse Party at the PDX Eagle in Portland Oregon & Club XES. Also The 15 Association's monthly play party at the usual location. BYOB, amenities furnished. 673-0452.

## PORN

# The flurry and the fury

by John F. Karr

**T**wo orgies have bewildered me recently. The first is the one I watched, Chi Chi La Rue's compendious *The Missing Link*, and the second is the one I was at, about which all I'll reveal is that it was comprised of what's known as a "mixed" crowd. Believe me, dears, if I'm there, it's mixed: totally frappe. As that precious event wasn't filmed, you'll have to settle for Chi Chi's, which is just about the last word in orgy films, anyway.

*The Missing Link* is some months old. It took me a while to get my hands on an unexpurgated copy, and then I was daunted by its length. Just when does one sit down to watch a 3-hour orgy? This would seriously impinge on my Shirley Temple. Shirley's films are finally being issued on DVD, and I can't pry myself away from *Dimples*, in which Shirley does a Bill Robinson dance. Not, as a sticker on the package says, "the famous stair dance with Bill Robinson." That's in *The Little Colonel*. Robinson isn't even in *Dimples*. He did choreograph it, however, imparting on little white Shirley an undeniably black style that's all his, and not so inimitable, after all. So you can understand why I was intimidated by ML's length.

And just why have porno movies gotten so long? Is Long the Last Frontier? I sense a competition that is driven more by director ego than audience demand. But what can you do after more guys have more sex? Let them have it for more time. The benefit of longer porn is that its scenes can be closer to real time, more organic in build, and cumulative in effect. The downside is viewer exhaustion and, like dinosaurs and Hollywood spectacle, extinction from sheer bloat.

Length in this instance allows a ravishing surrender to Chi Chi's pile-up of detail. The problems that usually beset the director are here turned to advantages, as the restlessness that exacerbates his weak character-building and narrative skills emerges in this plotless epic as insatiable hunger. It's further enhanced by the sharp videography of Michael Clift and the skilled editing of Andrew Rosen, who has done an excellent job stitching the hell-for-leather scraps into an all-of-a-piece quilt.

## Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

testants this year

On Sunday, a Victory Brunch was held at Harvey's SoMa, with a big turnout in support of Positive Resources Center and the Mr. SF Travel Fund. Later, a crowd convened at Daddy's Bar for a mini Closet Ball where high-ranking leather luminaries ("Charity made me do it!") were "woman-ized." As the shrieks and moaning subsided in Castro Canyon, a tall, blond drag queen in red was seen having dinner — but he didn't accessorize with his IML sash ... Ooops!

## Other results

Earlier in the week in Munich, Germany, IML Stefan Mueller



Blake Harper takes on near-twins Jay and Dex Black in *The Missing Link*.

All World's Video

Here, although a few tasty elements may be scuttled away rather quickly, the flurry and the fury that is Chi Chi is what it's all about.

### Set piece

The movie's sexual swagger is accentuated by one of most atmospheric sets ever. It's an abandoned freighter, whose science fiction-like boiler room and snaking,

subterranean gangways provide corroded interiors of antique menace. JD Slater's music, banshee shrieking and electronic haunting, takes each half's climactic orgy into the hallucinatory. The cast of sexual athletes, 36 strong, features many stalwart pros along with a group of fully competitive newcomers, all of whom I'd like to see again.

And although ML has brief pumping, fisting, shaving and peeing episodes (available by mail order only, or course), the movie is informed not so much by the kinkiness of what is done, as by the abandon with which what is done is accomplished. Like the spitting! This act, recently faddish though now fading, came into popularity after other body fluids were deemed unsafe, and ostensibly speaks of "masculinity" while hardly masking an unsavory aggression. It reaches an apogee in ML: a salvo of saliva, throughout.

High points for me included Lance Gear in several scenes. Gear and hottie hunk Peter Raeg are

outrageous playing with their piss and impaling themselves on the long-knobbed handles on opposite sides of the ship's steering wheel. The finale is a gang bang in which another of my favorites, Carlos Morales, shows his sensational chops. Not merely the best fucking of macrophallic Chad Hunt, but a dildoing with a Lucite tool the width of a Pringles canister, whose clearness lets one view Carlos' innards parting before it like the Red Sea for Moses.

And don't let me forget Blake Harper, whose terse narration provides hooks. Before one scene, she announces, "One day I'll live out all my fantasies," and is then seen presumably living them out, with a pair of highly beautiful black men. It's funny, but my mother, over dinner one night and completely unprompted, also revealed that she had fantasized about a black trucker. That's pretty sassy for an 83-year-old, but Blake outdoes my mother by taking on two at a time. Jay and Dex Black, who are near twins, may not have taps on their feet like Bill Robinson, but they accomplish some pretty smooth moves with Blake.

Because of ML's hyper-pitched length, it might be rather overwhelming to simply sit down to watch. But if you're apt to throw the kind of party it depicts, it's certainly the kind of movie you'd want running. No matter when you came up from your own personal maelstrom, there'd be a miasma of maleness on the screen. ▼

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stepped down from his Mr. Bavarian Leather 2001 title. The big turnout for the contest included Bill Stadt, Darrell Moyers, and Mr. Texas Leather Stephen Weber, who joined with our German brothers to welcome Alex Katzer, Mr. Bavarian Leather 2002. He will go on to compete for the Mr. Leather Germany 2002 title later this year.

In Philadelphia, Mark Collins did his farewells before passing his sash to Charlie Clement, and Pat Croissan passed hers on to Geri Farley. Chuck Renslow, Jill Carter, Mike Zuhl and Jeff Scheib joined Mark and Pat on the judging panel, and the show got raves for the MC — Mr. Ryan Goldner.

In Saugatuck, Michigan, Paul O'Rourke was named Mr. Michigan Leather (he was Mr. Detroit 21). ▼

Eagle last year) and will compete at IML again.

In Kansas City, Scott Roewer (Mr. Dixie Belle Leather 2001) relinquished his sash to Zack Marquardt, and the Heart of America Leather Boy is Brian Rochon.

At my deadline, no photos had been received from Michigan or Kansas City — but what else is new?

In San Francisco on Thursday night, March 7, only three men stepped forward to compete for the June 2003 spot on the Bare Chest Calendar. Judges Patrick Batt, Vern Stewart, Kevin Casey (Mr. Leather California) and Laura Federico shot the questions to the three, and when it was all over, Corey Caballero won the spot. Mr. July will be chosen at the Powerhouse on Thursday, March 21. ▼

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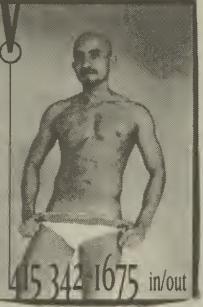
  
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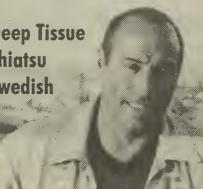
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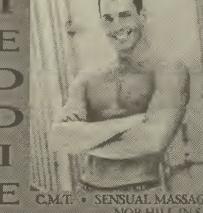
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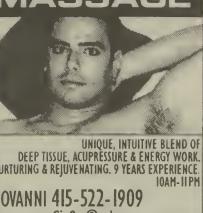
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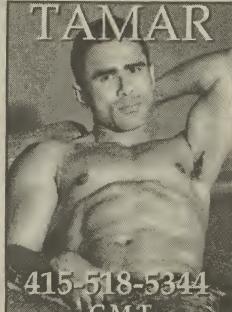
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papi  
moreno  
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180#  
29yo  
8x6  
415.205.8017  
cell 415.540.1924  
paper



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RICARDO  
HUNG LATINO TOP  
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**BI GRAD STUDENT**  
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E12

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(415) 775-4771 24-hours

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Satisfied by sweet and cute guy 35yrs. 5'10", 160# 8 inches, cut. Call Andy 246-5625

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Very hot 28 yr old 5'9", 165# slim muscular 8x6 cut hot great butt. Older guys only Dave 415-224-0155 [davetylercalifornia@hotmail.com](mailto:davetylercalifornia@hotmail.com)

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8"cut Bl/Blu 5'11" 155lbs vers Pics: [www.RyanKid.com](http://www.RyanKid.com) \$160 outcalls 415-235-4156

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Skilled and caring SM top available for play and training. Send email to smtopforhire@yahoo.com for information.

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**HUNG FF TOP W SLING!**  
Solid muscular 6'180 48 leather big nips 9" beauty lg hands toys ws long sessions avail. Photo on line. Couples of Derek 207 0381\*\*

E13

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Massage, S&M, 24hrs. 415 414 0731

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## Dominant Leatherman

41yo,  
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Brown Hair,  
flat top,  
Blue Eyes,  
mustache,  
7" Uncut.

Bondage,  
SM, WS,  
CBT,  
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Fetish,  
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Have equipment and playspace.  
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Hot blonde w/green eyes 5'7" 135

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Manual emission training by a large, hairy, middle-aged bear. One excruciating hour. Sorry, "cut" only. The perfect hand job. \$40. Pete: 415-647-6212

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E14

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E11

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E13

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beginners welcome!

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Visiting from the Midwest. 6'2", 165#  
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